

10-9-2006

## Columbia Chronicle (10/09/2006)

Columbia College Chicago

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# Students mobilize to protest war



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Thomas Walker, a junior music and performing major, leads a group of Columbia students during a walk-out on Wabash Ave. Oct. 5. The group was organized by World Can't Wait, which coordinated walk-outs and rallies nationwide.

By Jenn Zimmerman  
Assistant Campus News Editor

The buildings lining Wabash Avenue echoed with Columbia voices on Oct. 5, during anti-Bush organization World Can't Wait's protest.

Gathering around the Wabash

Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., a diverse crowd of Columbia students shouted through megaphones protesting the Bush administration and invited other students to join in the march.

"Create change," said Adam

Pagy, a junior fashion and production major. "We are creating fucking change!"

After assembling a crowd of 30 to 40 students, protesters marched down the street past other city colleges including Harold Washington, Robert Morris,

DePaul, Roosevelt and the School of the Art Institute.

Since the group was met with mixed reactions, few joined in the crowd that ended its first march at the corner of Columbus Drive and Jackson Avenue in Grant Park. The remaining protestors and World

Can't Wait members welcomed Columbia marchers with applause.

"The younger folks and older folks all have a huge voice that needs to be heard," said Bonnie Farr, a woman who came out from Rockford.

See Protest, Page 10

# Statistics reveal drops in campus crime

By Amanda Maurer  
Campus News Editor

While there weren't many changes in the number of crimes committed from 2003 to 2005 on Columbia's property or in campus

buildings, there was a considerable increase in the number of offenses committed in the dorms.

The numbers revealing this information came out in the Crime Statistics Brochure on Sept. 29,

from Columbia's office of Campus Safety and Security.

The brochure lists more than 20 categories of crimes and the frequency they were committed on Columbia property, rented property

and in the residence halls, as well as how many incidents were reported to the Chicago Police Department.

Last year, there were 10 crimes that occurred on campus, 157 on public property as reported to the Chicago Police Department and 613 occurred in Columbia dorms by all center residences.

Columbia's officials attribute these increases to a larger student body residing on campus, which jumped after the addition of the University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St., and the 2 East 8th building.

At first glance, it appears that the greatest number of crimes were liquor law violations in Columbia's residence centers. They rose from 29 in 2003, to 190 in 2004 and most recently to 513 in 2005.

However, the 2004 and 2005 statistics include the total number of liquor law violations that occurred in Columbia's shared dorms, regardless of what college or university the violator may have attended.

The number of Columbia students who committed liquor law violations in residence centers campuswide came to a total of 324 in 2005, said Martha Meegan, director of Campus Safety and Security. That same number for 2004 was not available. In 2003, there were 29 violations.

"Obviously there are increases with the drug and alcohol violations, but when you consider the size of the population we gained in the residential facilities, that's

See Statistics, Page 9

# Festival focuses on conflict

By Amanda Maurer  
Campus News Editor

This fall Columbia has joined the ranks of other city organizations and institutions by partnering with the 17th annual Chicago Humanities Festival, "Peace and War: Facing Human Conflict," for the first time.

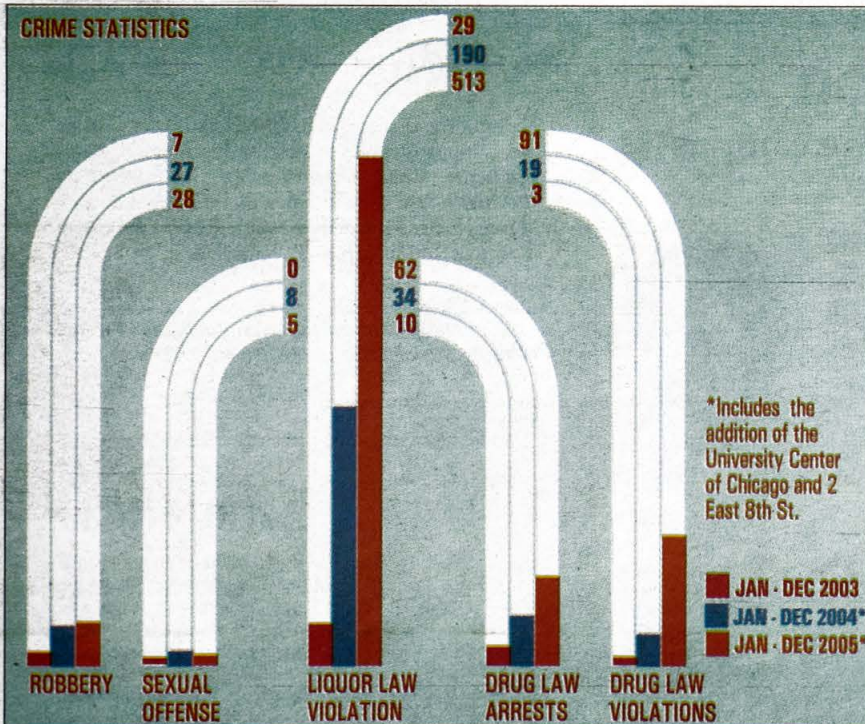
The festival celebrates the ideas of world-renowned scholars, authors, artists and policy makers. This year's theme explores the many natures of war and peace, from interactions with family in the home to worldwide policies.

A number of the festival's 150 scheduled programs will be held at the college, and a handful of faculty members will participate in panel discussions and lectures, which run from Oct. 28 to Nov. 12.

Kuntz hopes that each program's audience will understand and appreciate how presenters explored elements of this year's theme, said Peter Kuntz, managing director of programs and production for the Chicago Humanities Festival.

"Our goal is for people to come away from this festival with hope that there are actually

See Festival, Page 9



Joshua Corrubias/The Chronicle

Statistics for 2004 and 2005 consist of crimes that have occurred in Columbia's shared student residence centers. The statistics include violations committed by students of all schools in the University Center of Chicago and the 2 East 8th building.





## How not to make friends

By Hayley Graham, Editor-in-Chief

Last week someone I was just starting to grow close to moved unexpectedly for a job opportunity. He was in a tough spot and was committed to making sacrifices to further his career, which I admire and have always said I would do. But this got me thinking about the biggest sacrifice he's faced with—leaving friends and having to start over.

I had zero friends when I first came to Columbia as an 18-year-old with a bad haircut and terrible social skills. Not only was I friendless, but I had no idea how to make friends.

I had a few setbacks that made it harder for me. My best friends from home were people I had known since kindergarten, so I never really had to put any effort into meeting new friends. I'm also somewhat socially awkward, even though I've been told that I seem to have gotten better, and generally don't make the best first impressions. To top it off I was not into indulging in alcoholic beverages, which seems to be a magical key to meeting people.

Nearly four years later I finally have established a solid group of good friends that I can see myself staying close to years down road. But as graduation creeps closer with the possibility that I may have to move to a new city, I've been thinking about how to and how not to make friends.

Over the years I think I've learned more ways to not make friends and who to avoid being friends with than actually befriending people. So if you're freaking out because you're about to move and make friends, or if you just don't have any friends, here's some tips I've

learned from my failed attempts at making new friends.

I realized quickly that a direct approach is more counter-productive than one would expect. There was a girl in one of my classes who seemed like she had similar interests as me and I thought would be a good match for a new best friend. So during an awkward silence while riding the elevator after class, I blurted out "I like your style; we should be friends." Of course she smiled awkwardly and half laughed, and that was the first and last time we ever spoke.

Remember that cliché saying "beggars can't be choosers?" Well I learned that being too picky about people's habits and

befriending a finger-licker I never sat by her again in class and was left with another broken opportunity of friendship.

Even though it's not good to be too picky when trying to make friends it's important to have some standards. The first friend I made at Columbia was the most socially awkward and depressed person I ever met. This obviously didn't help my cause, considering that the only thing we ever did was hang out in her dorm room, watch trashy TV shows and talk about how socially awkward we were. Luckily I got past that phase, and I hope she did too.

While trying to meet new friends I was really shocked to find out how many people don't have a very good sense of humor, or at least one that can tolerate me. If you're sarcastic like I am, make sure that when you're saying something to a prospective friend they know you're being sarcastic. And if they know you're being sarcastic and don't think you're funny, then immediately stop trying to be friends with them. But if you have

to explain to someone, as I did once, that you were being sarcastic and she replies by saying, "Oh ... I'm not good at being funny," run away.

So if you're trying to make friends keep in mind my past experiences that taught me how not to make them, and I'm sure you'll make some good ones. The best thing I've learned is to not try too hard, since the best friendships I have just sort of fell randomly in place.

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characteristics is a sure way to stay friendless.

I was still in the acquaintance phase of building a friendship with a girl in one of my classes. She was smart and funny, which are top qualities that a good friend should have. We seemed to be moving toward an actual friendship until one day she bought a bag of Flaming Hot Cheetos and spent 10 minutes slobbering all over her orange finger tips to clean them like some sort of wild animal. It was repulsive, and I was horrified. So at the risk of

## In this issue

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Campus News  
Arts and Entertainment  
Commentary  
City Beat

## Announcements

### Black Student Union meeting

Columbia's Black Student Union will meet at 6 p.m. Oct. 9 in room 311 in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. The union meets every other Monday, and all students are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Kimberly Weatherly at (312) 344-7994.

### Lunchtime Drum Circle

Once again Columbia's monthly Lunchtime Drum Circle will meet from noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 10. The event will take place in the Hokin Annex of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information, call Sharod Smith at (312) 344-7188.

### Talk the Walk

Talk the Walk allows the public and artists to explore Columbia's campus galleries. Participants can wander around the college's galleries for free from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 12.

For more information, call Elizabeth Burke-Dain at (312) 344-8695.

### Social activist visits

Author and social activist Nelson Peery will be on campus Oct. 12 to discuss his memoir *Black Radical: The Education of an American Revolutionary*. The event will be held at 2 p.m. during a class located in room 1206 in the South Campus Building, 624 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information, contact the Fiction Writing Department at (312) 344-7611.

## In Your Opinion

Do you think Columbia is a safe campus and why?



"Yes, the dorm is close to the buildings so you don't have to walk too far."

Quentin Leonard, junior, television



"No, [because] people steal shit."

Brooke Copan, sophomore, graphic design



"Yes, [because] there are a lot of people just like me around here, [and] everyone looks out for each other."

Mark Johnsen, senior, graphic design



"Yes ... there's security people there watching."

Lindsey Davis, freshman, fashion management

### 7-Day forecast for Chicago



### Wednesday



Partly sunny  
76 / 56

### Thursday



Some sun  
76 / 56

### Friday



Sunshine and patchy clouds  
76 / 56

### Saturday



Mostly sunny  
76 / 56

### Sunday



Sunshine  
77 / 55

### Monday



Sun and clouds  
79 / 60

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2006

## THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

If you have an upcoming event or announcement, contact The Chronicle's news desk  
chronicle@colum.edu  
(312) 344-8964

## Film, Fonda fuel discussion

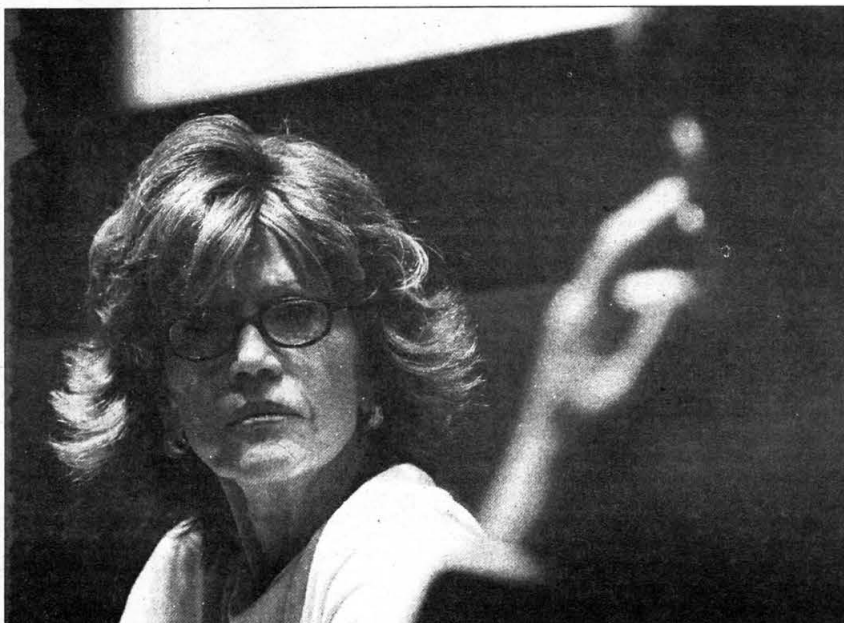
**Debate draws connections between Vietnam and Iraq**

By Jim Jaworski  
Associate Editor

While protests from everyday citizens were not uncommon during the Vietnam War, a new film aims to shed some light on a lesser-known breed of protesters: the soldiers who were fighting in it.

Director David Zeiger showed his film *Sir! No, Sir!* to students and faculty on Oct. 3 at Columbia's Film Row Cinema in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. After the film, which received a standing ovation from the audience, film and video faculty member Ron Falzone hosted a Q&A with Zeiger; actress Jane Fonda, an anti-war activist who has a small role in the film; and Vietnam veteran Barry Romo. While the film was well-received, the Q&A had a few tense moments and incidents of political sparring.

*Sir! No, Sir!* is a documentary about the anti-Vietnam movement within the ranks of the U.S. military. The film features soldiers who were criminalized for participating in anti-war marches, resisting orders, and producing underground publications criticizing America's foreign policy in southeast Asia. By calling attention to the soldiers who resisted, Zeiger



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Jane Fonda listens to Ron Falzone, a film and video faculty member, during a Q&A session after the screening of the film *'Sir! No, Sir!'* directed by David Zeiger at the Film Row Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash building.

hopes to spotlight what he thinks is a forgotten piece of the larger anti-Vietnam movement.

"They say the Vietnam War was fought by working-class soldiers who were all [pro-war]," he said. "There are a lot of misconceptions."

After the film, Falzone hosted the Q&A to discuss the movement among soldiers. Zeiger and Fonda explained that there was a stronger resistance among the soldiers than the public was aware of.

"There was a very clear split around 1970, 1971," Zeiger said. "[By then] over 50 percent of soldiers had engaged in some type of anti-war activity ... by 1971, you didn't even have to hide that."

Fonda, who held numerous anti-Vietnam rallies around the world, also recalled the support she received from troops, as well as a significant amount of resistance.

"As I was being led off [military bases] there was guys hanging out there giving me the peace sign and on the other side there were some waving the American flag ... calling me a traitor," she said.

While the film made no direct reference to the current war in Iraq, the conversation quickly steered towards its similarities to Vietnam.

"The U.S. government threw everything they had at [Vietnam], except nuclear weapons," Zeiger said, referring to the Iraq war, and a potential conflict with Iran, where President Bush is openly considering small-scale nuclear weapons, such as "bunker busters."

"I don't have to tell you about the similarities," Fonda said. "It's too depressing."

After Falzone finished his portion of the Q&A, the discussion was opened to the audience to ask further questions, with Romo, a member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, joining Zeiger and Fonda on stage.

The politically charged atmosphere instantly yielded some tense back-and-forths between some members of the audience and those on stage.

The first question was asked by a member of the Green Party, an environmental, pro-labor group, who did not give his name. The man asked the group about the need for a third political party while simultaneously promoting its candidate for lieutenant governor.

"We need a movement that is not just the Democrats," he said.

Romo quickly berated the man for his use of the venue to promote his party.

"If you just came here to give your [statement], then that is very disrespectful," Romo said.

A brief shouting match ensued between the two men until the Green Party member eventually stormed out.

The next question was raised by Blake Hausman, president of the Columbia College Conservatives, a student organization. He criticized Fonda for attempting to turn the public against the government.

"[You did] what it would take ... to turn America into the enemy and not the beacon of hope that it is," he said.

After a disapproving murmur from the crowd, Fonda defended her stance on the Iraq war and Vietnam.

"I don't agree with the policies," she said, "but I still love America." Romo jumped to her defense.

"If Jane's a traitor, then I'm a traitor," he said. "And I am not."

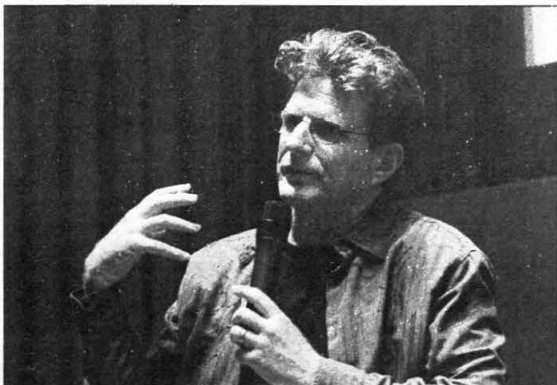
Throughout the session, highly political questions were raised, such as the dissent amongst soldiers in the current conflict in Iraq.

After fielding so many hard-hitting questions, Zeiger was ready for a more lighthearted discussion.

"Isn't there a lot of film students [at Columbia]?" Zeiger joked. "Doesn't anyone want to know what format I shot it in?"

Louis Silverstein, Liberal Education instructor and co-chair of the Civic Responsibility and Engagement Committee, which sponsored the event, was satisfied with the open dialogue and exchange of ideas that took place.

"The people that showed the film, what they hope is that people don't leave with, 'That was a very interesting evening, that was a challenging evening,'" he said. "But the idea of how we give meaning to the film and how do we give meaning to [things that] we said and how we go about living our lives."



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

David Zeiger speaks to a crowd of people about his film *'Sir! No, Sir!'* at the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

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## Minimum grade policy proposed

**Students may need at least a C grade for majors, minors**

By Jim Jaworski  
Associate Editor

A proposal put forth to Columbia's College Council could establish a minimum grade policy for majors and minors, requiring students to receive at least a C in order to advance in an undergraduate program.

The council, a governing body made up of members from the administration, faculty, staff and student government, have not yet voted on the proposal, but it could be ratified and presented to the president's office next month if it gains enough support.

Columbia currently has no policy dictating a minimum grade requirement throughout the college, with departments maintaining their own grade requirements for students to advance in the program. Most departments have a minimum grade requirement of either a C or a C-minus.

The policy, which was proposed by the Academic Affairs Committee, received significant resistance from council members who raised concerns about its effectiveness.

One problem is the possibility of instructors giving students a C instead of a more deserved C-minus in order to keep the student from having to repeat the course.

"It seems we are going to see grade inflation," said Randy Albers, council member and chair of the Fiction Writing Department. "That undercuts standards."

Another concern raised was the potential impact on low-income students who receive a C-minus and have to repeat a course. Since financial aid does not cover a course taken for the second time, some members were concerned disadvantaged students may opt to drop out of Columbia.

"This may be of good intention ... [but] it may decrease the amount of low-income students [at Columbia]," said Louis Silverstein, a council member and Liberal Education instructor.

Some members were also concerned about the negative affect on honors students who might be adversely affected because of a poor performance in a single class.

"[There could be] a student who has a 3.7 GPA, and they have to repeat a course," said Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs.

A modified proposal will most likely be presented at the November College Council meeting. If the measure passes through the council, it will then be presented to president Warrick L. Carter and the board of trustees for final approval.

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## Columbia administers arty alcohol punishments

By Steve Yaccino  
Assistant Campus News Editor

Although underage students caught drinking off campus could pay up to \$500 in fines or serve 30 days in jail, according to the Illinois Liquor Control Commission, Columbia prefers to take a socks-on-hands-on approach.

Campus alcohol violations have risen over the last two years, yet Columbia continues to creatively discipline students, and some say it's ineffective.

For punishment last spring, Andy Molholt, a former theater major, crouched behind an overturned table in the student lounge of his dormitory. His arms were stuffed into dirty socks that he decorated for that very moment. He named one sock Mary; he named the other sock James. He reached up so that only his hands were visible above the table and reenacted a party as 30 of his classmates intently watched.

"I feel cocky and indignant," James said, acting outwardly drunk.

"Do me!" Mary said. They kissed, but were quickly interrupted by the sound of someone pounding at the door.



"It's the RA," someone screamed. "Hide the beer!"

With the help of a friend crouching next to Molholt, a resident assistant sock entered the scene to the soundtrack of "Bad" by Michael Jackson.

See Alcohol, Page 10





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**Thursday, October 12, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, October 15, 7:30pm**

**Tuesday, October 17, 8:00pm**

**Wednesday, October 18, 8:00pm**

Community Lounge 731 S. Plymouth Ct.

For questions please contact:

Kelli Collins - The Associate Director of  
Res. Life at [Kcollins@colum.edu](mailto:Kcollins@colum.edu)



\*You must attend a session to obtain an application.



# Students save with technology

By Jenn Zimmerman  
Assistant Campus News Editor

Technology can be expensive these days. Between keeping up with the latest laptops, iPods and cell phones, being technologically advanced isn't fit for a college student's budget. But around Columbia's campus, some students are finding that keeping up just may help them save more money in the long run.

Photography is one of the more expensive majors at Columbia, but students are now benefiting from access to latest versions of printers and computers that in some ways are taking the place of the darkroom.

Students like Ashleigh Brickley, a senior photography major, spends an additional \$500 on supplies on top of the near \$8,000 in tuition she pays each semester and classroom fees that can be up to \$125 per class.

Similar to Brickley, sophomore Kristyna Archer is also spending a little over \$500 a semester to keep up with her class photography projects.

"I spend \$100 per month on paper or \$400 on paper for black and white film," Archer said.

With digital technology slowly taking over the photography world, Brickley and Archer are able to save money by tapping into the popular new technology

and tossing aside their 35 mm film cameras.

According to Peter LeGrand, a professor in the Photography Department, students can save close to \$1,000 a semester now by switching over to a digital camera for his classes that shoot mostly portrait photography.

"If they are working with digital cameras, which a majority of them do, a stack of blank CDs that you could pick up at Walgreens, a stack of 50 would cost you about 10 bucks and that could be sufficient for the entire semester," he said.

By allowing students to submit their work as a multimedia slideshow as opposed to physical prints, they save money by not having to process and print out their film to present to the class, LeGrand said.

LeGrand estimates that processing fees for a good roll of \$8 film are close to \$40 to \$50 a week for students. He sees the switch over to digital cameras as overall beneficial for students.

However, according to William Frederking, also a photography professor, although digital photography is taking over, students won't save money by switching to a digital camera because of the money they will have to spend on expensive printing papers and ink. Students will also have to spend



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Students observe their film negative contact sheets in the dark room on the 10th floor of the Alexandroff. Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave, on Oct. 4 to decide which photos they should develop.

additional money in order to keep up with the advancements in technology on new cameras or computers.

"What they save in film they will still have to update their cameras every two to three years," Frederking said.

Despite the recent influx of digital media for photography majors, students like Brandon Song, a 21-year-old senior, still plan on sticking to film camera. Yet still benefits from these developments by being able to print digitally.

By having access to advanced printers Song saves money and time by scanning his negatives into the computer instead of having to process his film and spend

time developing his photos.

Archer still shoots with a traditional camera, but plans on saving up for a digital camera bought off eBay or other discount websites.

"The industry is going to digital because it's more efficient," Archer said. "I love film and want to stay with film, but my competition will have a digital camera."

Frederking, who was last year's acting chair for the Photography Department, said as digital photography takes over in the commercial industry, he can almost see a day when Columbia will have to require students to own a digital camera.

According to LeGrand, an affordable, quality digital cam-

era could cost anywhere from \$1,200 to \$1,500, and although it is a large expense for students, they will benefit from the advantages a digital camera can give them.

"It's faster and it's immediate feedback for students," LeGrand said. "The quality is absolutely superb as good as what you get from film for the most part. What's not to like?"

And although digital imaging lab coordinator Tammy Mercure agrees that digital photography is taking over more of the commercial industry, she said film cameras will always be part of shooting fine art photography.

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## The Music Center of Columbia College Chicago 1014 S. Michigan at 11<sup>th</sup> St.

### Concert Hall Events

#### Monday October 9

Classical Guitarist Norman Ruiz in Concert  
12:30 PM

#### Tuesday October 10

Sharon Carlson and Sebastian Huydts in Concert  
12:30 PM

Student Piano Concert  
7:00 PM

#### Wednesday October 11

Pianist Jeffery Jacob in Concert  
(Reservations Suggested 312-344-6300)  
12:30 PM

Pianist Jeffery Jacob Workshop  
1:30 PM

#### Thursday October 12

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby  
12:30 PM

CCC Jazz Ensemble in Concert  
7:30 PM

#### Friday October 13

Saxophonist Idit Shner in Concert  
4:30 PM

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# Students question new Columbia major

By Brent Steven White  
Assistant A&E Editor

As the video game market grows and gains popularity with rapid technological advancements, Columbia is doing its best to keep up with the trend.

Last spring, the college changed the Interactive Arts and Media Department by adding a major in game design, with concentrations in game development, animation, programming and sound design.

College officials, including

Doreen Bartoni, dean of the School of Media Arts believe the major is going well.

"The enrollment has exceeded our expectations," Bartoni said. "I had projected 40 students the first year, and this year we have 73. I think it's doing quite well."

But Kent Mages, a student who took several classes in the game design major last spring, decided not to enroll this fall, citing disappointment with the major.

"You don't take a medical student and teach them how to do

open heart surgery their first semester," said Mages who dropped out before his junior year. "The program is too dense. It's more academic and not hands-on enough. They're starting 10 steps ahead and need to restructure it."

However, Annette Barbier, chair of the Interactive Arts and Media Department, defended the new program and said a lot of planning went into the structure of Columbia's new major and that it focuses on the broader picture of the gaming industry.

"[Mages] is certainly entitled to his opinion," Barbier said. "I would say it's probably not entirely hands-on, and if somebody wants a more technical approach, a kind of DeVry Institute approach or something that's entirely practical and not theoretical, there are other programs out there."

Both Barbier and Bartoni said they haven't been approached by students concerned about the new program.

Neither could provide an exact number of how many students dropped or transferred out of the major, but agreed 73 game design majors are currently enrolled.

Sophomore Tim Lyons is enrolled in the program, and said he's just as disappointed as Mages.

"I don't think they have the kinks worked out yet," Lyons said. "They should have thought [the new major] out before students started spending money on the program."

Both Lyons and Mages said the new major lacks direction and the classes haven't fulfilled their expectations.

"At a lot of other schools, students are making games the first year," Mages said. "We weren't even working on 2D stuff."

But not all game design majors feel Columbia's program is inadequate.

Sophomore game design major Barry Burce said that while the program is constantly evolving, he finds the new major informative and engaging.

"The environment in the classes is really creative," Burce said. "It's really creatively diverse

and challenging. You got to learn how to write, draw and program."

Burce said the teachers are knowledgeable and easy to approach, but he's also who noticed a few unhappy students have dropped the major.

Because the video game industry is constantly evolving and a difficult field to break into, some within the field feel actual experience comes before getting a degree.

Marisa Ong, a producer at Total Immersion Software, Inc., which constructs military training simulations, said while education is important, experience is what her company looks for when considering prospective employee.

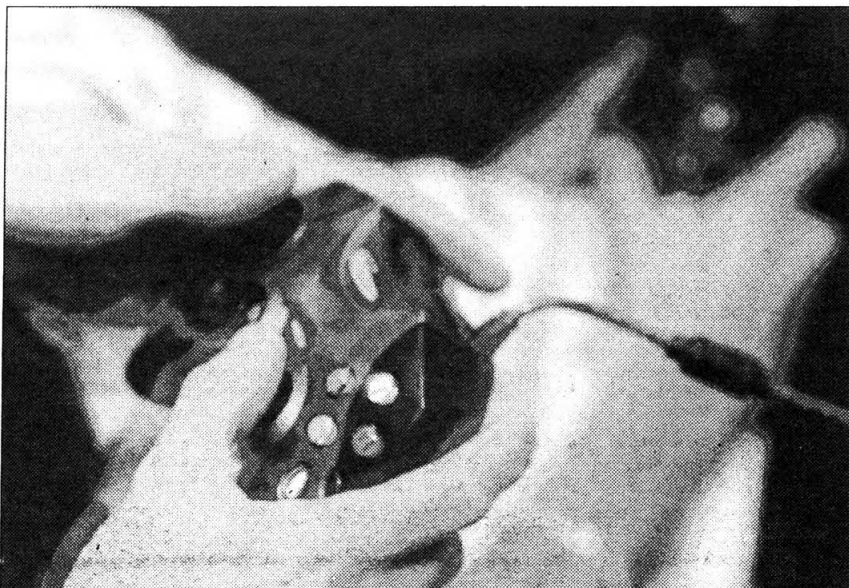
"I was in the business for a long time before schools had these game design programs," Ong said. "It's more about learning how to think logically, having experience and learning how to work as a team, rather than learning X and using X five years from now."

Still, Wade Roberts, a Columbia professor who teaches classes in the new major, said the new program offers a "fair balance of academics and programming," and that students benefit from classes.

"I think it's focused and it's comprehensive," Roberts said. "The program works. Some schools' focus is strictly programming games, whereas we offer a broad program. A lot of planning went into it."

In June 2005, the school received a grant for the game design major from the United

See Video Game, Page 10



MCT Campus

A father and son, that consider themselves a 'video game team,' practice playing the popular game 'Halo' at their home.

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BY JHUMPA LAHIRI

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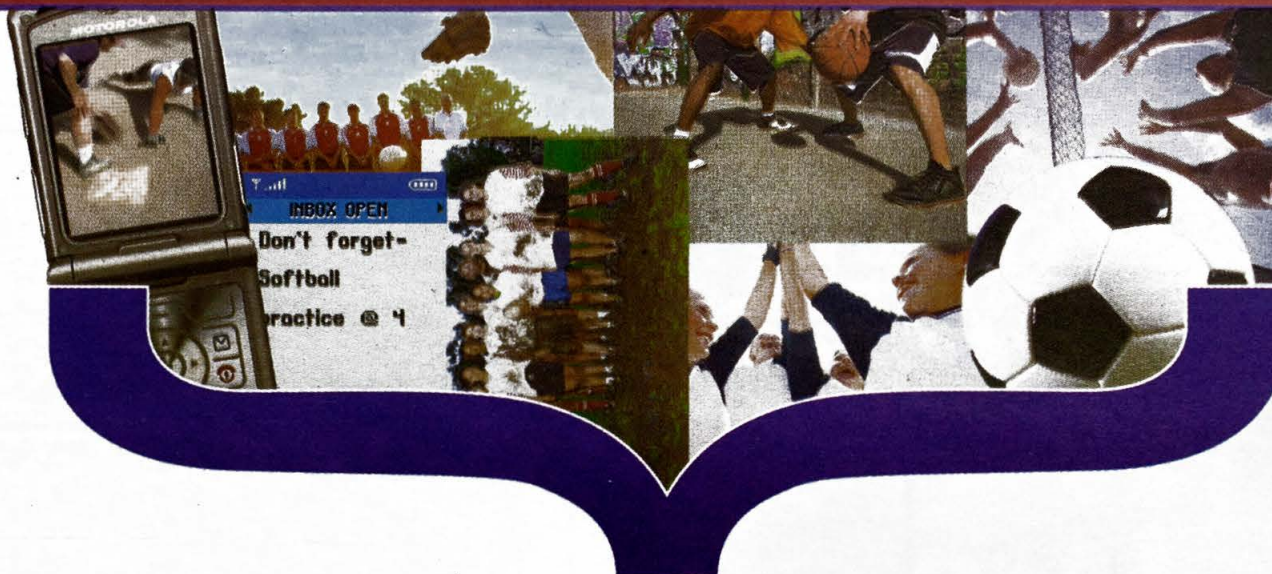
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# CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



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## PASSION - RENEGADES CROSS COUNTRY

The Renegades Cross Country team meets Monday-Saturday at 6:30 AM to run. Yes, 6:30 AM! If you would like to join them for a run, they meet at Congress and Wabash. The Cross Country team is very well organized and is inclusive to all types of runners. The president of the Cross Country team is Shareen Chehade. If you have any questions then please contact the Cross Country team by visiting their webpage through the Columbia Athletic's website. <http://ATHLETICS.COLUM.EDU>



**Renegades**  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

### ★ CURRENT SPORTS

Baseball - Cycling - Soccer - Wrestling  
Cross Country - Capoeira - Men's Lacrosse  
Men's Basketball

### ★ CURRENT SPORTS INTERESTS

Tennis - Fast-Pitch Softball - 16" Softball  
Volleyball - Women's Basketball - Kickball  
Flag Football - Raquetball - Women's Lacrosse  
Ultimate Frisbee - Swimming - Dance - Diving  
Cheerleading - Rugby - Paintball - Gymnastics  
Water Polo

### ★ FITNESS AND INTRAMURALS

Free fitness classes for Columbia students held at the fitness center located at Roosevelt University - Marvin Moss Center at 425 S. Wabash, 4th Floor.

- \*Pilates- Every Wednesday in September 4:30-5:30pm
- \*Abs- Thursdays 6-6:30pm
- \*Cardio Kickbox- Thursdays 6:30-7:00pm
- \*Aikido- Thursday 6-8pm & Saturday 3-5pm
- \*Vinyasa Yoga - This is a 4 class series. Classes will be held every Wednesday between October 4th and October 25th.

### ★ ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Cross Country

Cross Country meets at 30W building, on the corner of Wabash and Congress. Monday-Saturday at 6:30 a.m. to run.

#### Soccer

Open practices are held every Tuesday at 5:00PM in Grant Park (Columbus & Balbo).

#### Swimming

Interested in Swimming? Come to 1104 S. Wabash in the Conaway Center on Thursday, October 12th and Friday, October 13th at 5:00 p.m.

#### Gymnastics

If you are interested in Gymnastics, they have practices EVERY Friday from 3-5pm at the Roosevelt Gym, located at 425 S. Wabash, 4th floor.

#### Men's Lacrosse

Men's Lacrosse meets every Friday in Grant Park (Balbo & Congress) at 3:00 p.m. If you are interested then simply show up!

#### Volleyball

There will be an information meeting for anyone interested in volleyball on Thursday October 12th, at 6:30, in the Conaway Center at 1104 S. Wabash!

#### Cheerleading

Cheerleading has its first official practice/try out on Monday October 16, from 6:15 - 7:45. P.M. This is open to both women and men.

#### Capoeira

Capoeira is a Brazilian Dance/Martial Art. They have practices on Tuesday and Friday from 5-7pm at Roosevelt's Gym.

Contact the Renegades - 1104 S. Wabash Lower Level Office A - 312-344-6917 - [ATHLETICS@COLUM.EDU](mailto:ATHLETICS@COLUM.EDU)



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# The world continues to wait ...

In support of World Can't Wait's protest, dozens of students walked out of classes on Oct. 5.

Although the turn-out wasn't what the anti-Bush organization had anticipated, close to 600 civilians still showed up at Chicago's Federal Plaza to show their support, according to a spokesperson from World Can't Wait.

Columbia students marched along Wabash Avenue at the beginning of the protest and invited other city college students and workers in the Loop to join in the march.

Supporters gathered at Grant Park before continuing the march to the Plaza, where they filed into an area located at the corner of Columbus Drive and Jackson Avenue to hear readings, poetry and speeches by fellow anti-Bush members.

Students were met with applause and cheers when they arrived at Grant Park before moving to their final destination at the Plaza.

A barricade of police officers surrounded the protest that diminished slowly after four p.m.



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

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Special Performance  
virtuoso saxophonist  
Idit Shner



Israeli virtuoso Idit Shner will perform five exciting works for saxophone and electronics including "Triptych" by Columbia faculty composer Timothy Dwight Edwards. This piece extends the sound palette of the saxophone by using computer-manipulated samples of saxophone sounds.

Saxophone demonstration  
Thursday, October 12, 4:30-5:15  
Music Center, room 205

Recital  
Friday, October 13, 4:30 pm  
Music Center Concert Hall  
1014 S. Michigan Ave. First Floor



## Statistics: South Loop crime continues to drop

*Continued from Front Page*  
not uncommon," Meegan said.

The number of drug law violations in Columbia's residence centers also included students from all schools. In 2003, three Columbia students committed a drug law violation in the only dorm at that time, located at 731 S. Plymouth Ct. In 2004, the total number of violations in all of Columbia's shared dorms increased to 18. By 2005, the figure jumped to 91 violations. However, the total number of Columbia students who were reported to have committed that violation in 2005 came to 14.

While liquor and drug law violation statistics appear to have jumped over the past few

years, Kelly said that when he compared the current school year to this time last year, the number of drug and liquor violations in the dorms moderately dropped.

"We're just far better at attending to these issues and addressing and documenting them," Kelly said.

While some numbers have gone up, other crimes committed on campus property or inside Columbia's buildings fell from 2003 to 2005.

The number of non-forcible burglaries numbered five in 2005, down from 31 in 2004 and 32 in 2003.

Kelly said he was impressed with those statistics, especially since it is an urban campus.

"Here we are, an urban campus, and you can't get more urban than Columbia, and that we have such an incredibly low incident [rate] of any sort of serious crime on the campus, or

even surrounding the campus, it's pretty amazing," Kelly said.

However, the South Loop, which qualifies as the city's first police district, had the second highest number of thefts in the city in 2005, according to the Chicago Police Department's Crime

**"Obviously there are increases with the drug and alcohol violations, but when you consider the size of the population we gained ... that's not uncommon."**

—Martha Meegan,  
Director of Campus Safety  
and Security

Statistics. The number of crimes committed fell from 2004, including aggravated assault, burglary and theft while others, like criminal sexual assault, increased.

The number of different crimes

occurring in the South Loop has begun to drop, according to 2006 statistics.

Frank Carney, a senior radio major, said he feels perfectly safe on campus; however, he attributes that to a number of reasons such as being an older student and a commuter.

"I'm only here to do what I have to do, and then I leave," Carney said.

And while he has taken day and night classes, he said he has never seen any crime or violation occur.

Meegan said students who drink in the dorms don't only hurt themselves. Problems can begin when students who are under the influence leave their residences and cause conflicts with other South Loop residents or property.

"It's a sad reflection of our society today," Meegan said. "I would love to see Columbia turn the tide around on this and really make a statement of how it's

not in the best interest of anybody pursuing a career in the media or the arts to rely on [drugs and alcohol] as a means of gaining more creativity or even relying on this to ease tension and pressure."

And though Columbia's security guards posted near the entry of each building do carry handcuffs and can detain people, they should not be thought of as law enforcement, Meegan said.

"The fact of the matter is, the CPD comes with the paddy wagons," she said.

If any student becomes a victim or witness to a crime, he should contact the Chicago Police Department and the Office of Campus Safety and Security, Meegan said.

In the three years the statistics cover, there has never been a reported incident on Columbia's rented or non-campus property.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

## Festival: Professors look forward to sharing knowledge

*Continued from Front Page*  
impulses and processes and procedures that are being put into place all around the world to make peace at least a possibility," Kuntz said.

He said since there is a tendency to look to major universities in the city for intellectual developments, some colleges, like Columbia, may fly under the radar. However, he believes the city can learn a great deal from the institution.

The college's choice to begin participating was an easy one, according to Micki Leventhal, Columbia's director of Media Relations.

"I thought the festival would be a good opportunity to showcase Columbia as a major cultural institution and get some of our faculty involved in doing presentations for the festival," Leventhal said.

Six of Columbia's faculty members, including Stephen Asma of the Liberal Education Department, will participate in events during the first weekend in November. Asma said he's honored to participate in "The Search for Internal and External Peace," as a scholar of Buddhism who formerly lived in Cambodia.

The panel plans to discuss how the peaceful lives of Buddhists have been impacted by war and although it is scheduled for a Saturday, Asma said it would be nice if students would take advantage of the events.

"It's definitely designed to have students come to it, but there's also a larger community of the city that is really interest-



Courtesy Stephen Asma

Stephen Asma, a faculty member in the Liberal Education Department, stands with Cambodian students in front of the Buddhist Institute in Cambodia. Asma said his knowledge and experience from living in Cambodia should offer a different perspective during his programs.

ed in cultural affairs and the humanities," he said.

Kuntz said the festival can reach a greater amount of young adults by holding a number of events at the college, and it will be their interest and passion that keeps the festival alive in the future.

"We need this festival to be slowly transferred to the next generation," Kuntz said. "We know that in order to do that, we're going to have to come up with different kinds of presenters [and] different kinds of presentations that speak to the interests and needs of a younger audience."

Kaisha Al-Amin, a junior fiction writing major, said she isn't

familiar with the Chicago Humanities Festival, and if she were to attend, it would greatly depend on her schedule and the programs' topics.

However, she might be more inclined to go if this year's theme were different.

"For me [the topics of war and peace are] getting kind of tired because you hear about [them] all the time," Al-Amin said.

Brendan Riley, a faculty member in the English Department, will also participate in a panel discussion titled "Cyberconflict: Representations of War in New Media and Electronic Games."

Riley said his panel will present

a different perspective on video games than how they are portrayed in the media and the government.

Others agree that students could benefit from attending the Chicago Humanities Festival programs.

"This external engagement helps to broaden Columbia students' understanding of life, art and scholarship, deepening their creative product," Leventhal said. "Engaging with the amazing learning experiences available in Chicago is food for thought and food for art."

Columbia's six faculty members will participate in a total of four events held throughout the city, including the college.

Additional events will be held in Columbia's Ferguson Hall, in the Alexandroff Campus Building, 600 S. Michigan Ave.; however, they have been scheduled to take place on the weekend, which should not interfere with the schedules of students, faculty and staff.

Although the festival does not begin until the end of October, tickets have been on sale for a month and several programs have already sold out. Tickets to any events for students and professors are free; however, those interested in attending a session must make reservations.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

### Schedule of Columbia Faculty Events at the Chicago Humanities Festival

#### Cyberconflict: Representations of War in New Media and Electronic Games

What: A discussion on how video games affect our perceptions of war.

Who: Annette Barbier, chair of the Interactive Arts and Multimedia Department; Brendan Riley, faculty member in the English Department, and video game producer Kevin Scott Mills.

When: Sat., Nov. 4, noon to 1 p.m.

Where: Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave.

#### The Search for Internal and External Peace

What: A discussion of Buddhist philosophies and how they exist despite political issues.

Who: Stephen Asma, faculty member in the Liberal Education Department; Ven. Kompha Seth, ordained Buddhist monk; and Judy Ledgerwood, anthropology professor at Northern Illinois University.

When: Sat., Nov. 4, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Where: Ferguson Hall in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

#### Teaching a Culture of Peace and Justice

What: A discussion on the challenges of teaching peacemaking and human rights.

Who: Louis Silverstein and Shayna Plaut, faculty members in the Liberal Education Department; and Kathy Kelly, a peace activist.

When: Sat., Nov. 4, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Claudia Cassidy Theater, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.

#### Dr. Frankenstein's Footsteps

What: A discussion about irresponsible scientists, and how current technology is abused.

Who: Dan Dinello, faculty member in the Film and Video Department.

When: Sat., Nov. 4, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Rubloff Auditorium, Loyola University, 25 E. Pearson St.



## Video Games: Columbia takes 'broad perspective on media'

Continued from Page 6

received a grant for the game design major from the United States Department of Defense for \$859,399, according to Charles Castle, assistant to the dean in the School of Media Arts.

Several other higher education institutions in Chicago offer video game majors, including DePaul University, which offers a B.S. in Computer Games Development, Northwestern University, which offers a Certificate in Game Animation and the Illinois Institute of Art, which offers a B.F.A. in Game Art and Design.

Jack Brzezinski, a professor in DePaul's Computer Science Department, said he thinks

DePaul's Computer Games Development program is both comprehensive and a step above other schools.

"Other schools concentrate on media and design, but we confront all the issues of making games," Brzezinski said. "We do allow students to pick their area of concentration, so if they want programming, they can do that."

Brzezinski said about 100 students, including 61 freshman, are majoring in DePaul's Computer Games Development program.

The major is three years old, and assists its students with building strong portfolios, Brzezinski said.

Barbier said Columbia got the idea for the game design major about three years ago when President Warrick L. Carter pro-

posed the idea to Bartoni. Along with some other faculty, Bartoni consulted the International Game Developers Association, who suggested a model for the new program.

Together, the school and the association looked at the job descriptions of employers in the gaming industry, and used that as the framework in pro-

viding students with the proper skills and knowledge to best prepare them for jobs in the field, Barbier said.

Still, Mages said the program

"is more focused on making students aware of the industry, rather than getting them involved with making games."

But Barbier believes Columbia's game design major gives students a bigger-picture approach to both making games

and the gaming industry.

"What we're trying to do is encourage our students to take a thoughtful approach to the production of games and to have a broad perspective on media," Barbier said. "That way, games

are seen as part of a range of media practices. Maybe that's academic, but this is an academic institution."

bwhite@chroniclemail.com

**"It's more about learning how to think logically, having experience and learning how to work as a team,"**

**—Marisa Ong, producer at Total Immersion Software, Inc., about experience in the gaming field**



## Protest: Students protest despite city snag

Continued from Front Page

Moving from Grant Park to Federal Plaza, the march was cut short two days after the city denied protestors their original route that would have been from Michigan Avenue to Canal Street and up

Wacker Drive, according to Columbia's World Can't Wait Organizer, Thomas Walker. Participants instead had to walk down Jackson Avenue and end the final rally at Federal Plaza.

Although the crowd seemed to be small in size, World Can't Wait reported that over 2,000 people marched to participate in the last part of the rally at the plaza that included guest speakers including Alderman Ricardo Munoz and former war veterans.

Walker, a junior music business major, said the rally is not a political movement for Democrats or Republicans, but a way to bring both parties together to voice their thoughts.

"This is not a secular movement," he said. "We are trying to change the political atmosphere."

Despite Walker claiming it was a non-partisan rally, Republican student Marty Abezetian, a senior, music business major, was eventually qui-

eted by other protesters outside of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., while speaking out about his support of President Bush and the government.

Freshman Aaron Colantti claimed Abezetian was interfering with their attempts to "rally people together" by voicing his support.

"Democracy lets people protest," Abezetian said. "Everyone should be happy that you have the ability to do this."

Students' posters and thoughts all focused on the recently passed Military Commissions Act that would allow new interrogation tactics against enemies of war. Some students compared the act to "Nazi tactics" and Hitler's anti-Semitic war policies during World War II.

However, Walker said that although they do want Bush out of office, the main goal of the protest is to "change the political mood in the country and get more people involved."

"We are showing off strength on universities," Walker said. "We want to be a symbol of young students who are opposed to this stuff and that we are willing to sacrifice [attending class]."

Margaret Brady, 50, walked along side Columbia students during the first march down Wabash Avenue. Brady believes that having younger voices at the rally is the secret to being heard.

"This is the heart, that's the secret," Brady said. "If we don't have you young guys we aren't going to affect anyone."

With more than 600 people remaining at the final rally at Federal Plaza, the overall support of having a younger crowd was felt among protestors.

"These are the people getting hurt by what's going on," said Charles Hendricks, 73. "I don't want my grandkids to live under these conditions."



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Freshman Aaron Colantti, right, and senior music business major Marty Abezetian, left, argue about U.S. policies outside of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on Oct. 5.

## Alcohol: College approaches discipline with unusual methods

Continued from Page 3

The show was Molholt's penalty for getting caught drinking at a similar party in his room at the 18 E. Congress Parkway building last year. A few days later, at the judicial hearing with Columbia, he was asked to choose his consequence and was surprised at the enthusiasm his sock puppet idea received.

"Best punishment ever," Molholt said. "I thought it was really ridiculous, but they were all for it."

Ann Almasi, Columbia's coordinator of Residence Life Adjudication, said that she's

interested in helping students better reflect on the choices they make. She does so by meeting with policy violators to discuss the situation and find the appropriate punishment, often called "learning activities."

"There's no one stamp sanction for everyone," Almasi said. "We try to personalize it to the student. We try to take an educational approach, and generally it usually works."

But according to the annual Crime Statistics Brochure, released by the office of Columbia Safety and Security, on-campus alcohol violations have risen 1,000 percent in the last two years. Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, said the numbers are misleading, and attributed the rise to an increase of students on campus due to the opening of the University Center of Chicago,

525 S. State St. and the 2 E. 8th St. building in 2004, and more accurate reporting and documentation of violations.

"We're doing better than we ever have at monitoring student behavior and responding," Kelly said. "We're being more vigilant than ever to set a tone that we're serious."

**"Best punishment ever. I thought it was really ridiculous, but they were all for it."**

**—Andy Molholt, former Columbia student, after administration approved his puppet-show penalty**

Some adjustments to Columbia's approach to alcohol discipline include a new online PowerPoint presentation aimed at

educating students and two 21-and-older floors in the University Center. This is the first year that Columbia has integrated these floors, a move Columbia's director of Residence Life, Mary Oakes, said was made only because DePaul University was already doing it in that building.

Other colleges in the area have much stricter policies than Columbia. At Roosevelt University, students are given a semester of probation if caught violating the alcohol policy. If caught again, they are removed from campus housing.

Loyola's standard sanction for a first-time violator is a \$50 fine, 10 hours of community service and the attendance of an online awareness course, lecture, or intervention. As the number of offenses increases, so do the fines and community service hours.

But Columbia's philosophy

differs.

"Black-and-white sanctions are not about learning, but enforcing college laws," Kelly said. "That's why we don't have zero tolerance, because it doesn't provide a learning experience."

And so the creative parenting continues.

During the second week of school, Claire Frahm, a freshman musical theater performance major, was drinking at a party on one of the 21-and-older floors when it was busted. As punishment, she had to make an educational flyer about drinking and the dangers of date-rape drugs. She was told that if it looked "really spiffy," it would be posted around the University Center.

"It seemed like a joke," Frahm said. "I don't think it will stop me from drinking."

syaccino@chroniclemail.com



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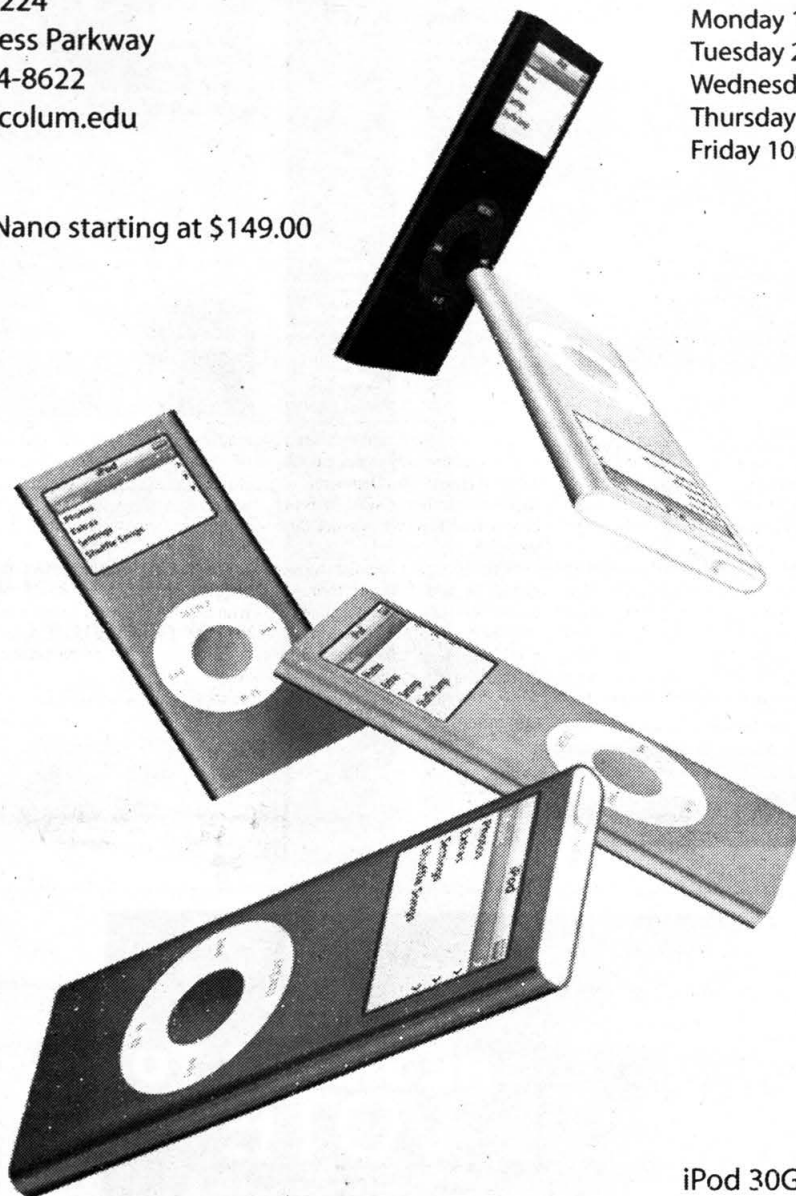
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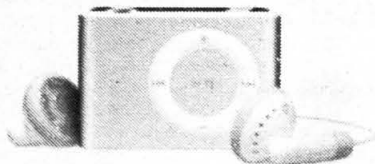
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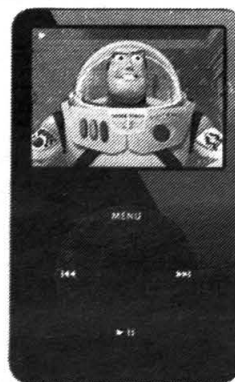
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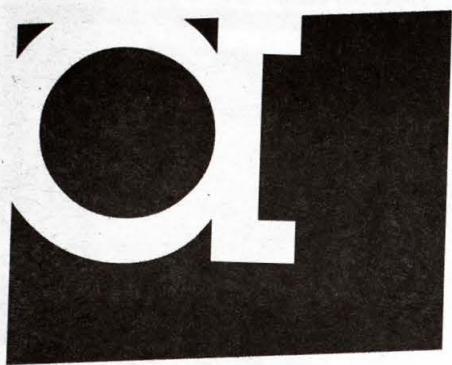


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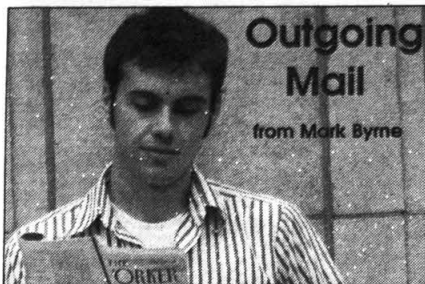
page 20

# Fearless in the City

Extreme European sport collides with the U.S.







## Dear Howard Orloff Volvo, Jaguar and Land Rover,

I got your letter the other day. You know the one: really nice envelope, read 'You have been invited to attend a special event!' on the back side.

Man, was I ever excited. I'd just come in after a long day of work, and one of my roommates had left it in my room. I think there was a bank statement too, and those were my only pieces of mail. Obviously, I was more interested in your letter. A special event? Me? The possibilities were innumerable. I was already making plans to get my best suit dry-cleaned, imagining all the fine young broads who are paid to attend black tie galas and flirt with me. Goddamn, was I ever pissed to see that Land Rover logo in the corner.

Special event, huh? Since when did a big ol' Land Rover sale qualify as a special event? But moreover, why such a shameless facade? I don't even have a word in my vocabulary for the color of the envelope—but I know it must have been an expensive-sounding off-white, like 'bone' or 'slate.' With an envelope like that, one could only imagine the sta-

tionary that might have been employed within. And on that stationary, something grand and exclusive, for which my presence was only just barely warranted, but still sincerely requested. A letter filled with elegant script and formal titles. Unfortunately, it was all some marketing ploy to get me to not throw away the envelope, to open the damn thing and then, hey, maybe I'll drop out of college and buy a Land Rover instead.

Since when did snail mail spam become so deceptive? I mean, I'm used to it in e-mail, where, out of the 10 sexual propositions I receive each day, only five of them are legit. But I guess I simply wasn't prepared for it to translate into real life.

More importantly though, I'm rather curious how you got my address. When I dealt with your service department a couple weeks ago, I just needed to get a new key for my beloved '88 Volv', and I must say, I was impressed with the speed with which you attended to my request.

I had all these delusions going in that I'd have to wait for weeks on end for a key to arrive from Volvo Corporate out in Sweden, where they probably keep a copy of every key ever made locked up in some safe, categorized by year and maybe by original owner. I know that wouldn't make any sense, but it was my fantasy, dammit.

Anyway, I was pleasantly surprised that it only took about 10 minutes to cut the key, and all you needed was my registration. Great, but now that I know

you only took down my address so you could send me some cleverly disguised trash, I'm a little less impressed.

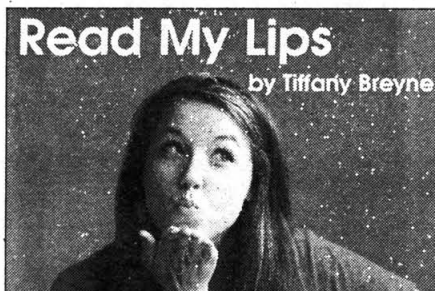
In fact, I'm a rather upset that your service—for a lifetime Volvo-lover at that—came with such malicious attachments. All you had to do was get my Vehicle Identification Number, type it in to some database, and then cut the key the right way. I'm afraid I don't understand how that gives you license to throw me on some stupid mailing list.

The worst part is that, with a little common sense, you probably could have ruled me out as a likely candidate to buy your stupid SUV. I'm 20 years old. You might not have known that, but here is what you do know: I came in to the service department and requested one single key to a 1988 Volvo 240 DL. I'm driving an 18-year-old car, and when I lost all the keys, I couldn't afford to get more than one key cut for it. Am I really your target demographic? Do people often lose their keys and say, "Well, I've been saving money for years now while I drove the car my dad gave me; time to buy that Range Rover I've had my eye on." I think not.

Listen, I'm not going to buy a Land Rover, I'll tell you that right now. But it's not because of how I feel about SUV's—I hate them—or the fact that my old car works perfectly fine—which is only half true. It's because I think you guys are idiots, and I despise your business practices. I was convinced that there was some sort of tacit agreement that spam was best left on the Internet, but it turns out I was wrong.

So here's my special little invitation for you to remove me from your mailing lists; you might save some serious cash on all that fancy stationary.

mbyrne@chroniclemail.com



## Lost and found

This past week, I lost a number of things. First, I lost my insanity as the week seemed to slowly dwindle down to the painful task of putting The Chronicle together for about 13 hours on Friday. Then at the end of the never-ending day, I lost my phone. All my numbers, my one source of contact to the outside world—all gone. This is the third time it's happened though, so I wasn't too concerned. But then, Saturday morning I woke up and discovered that my nose ring had fallen out during my precious sleepy-time, and I couldn't find it. It felt like my life was in shambles and there wasn't much I could do about it.

That all changed by the end of the weekend, though, because my drought

is finally over. After a few months of lonely nights, hot flashes and creepy, longing looks at every boy that walked by me, I finally got some. Amen.

It was good, and it wasn't with some random dude.

In fact, it's a guy I've known for awhile, but nothing happened until recently.

Lately I haven't been looking for a boyfriend or a guy to like because I'm far too busy and happy being single. I've just been looking for a fun, attractive guy to get the job done. And I found him. But the thing is, I think I like him too. That wasn't something I was looking for; I was more concerned with the physical aspect than the emotional. This somewhat backward chain of events is completely new compared to my younger days; aren't I supposed to like a guy and then decide if I want him to touch me?

I was talking to a friend about this awhile ago who felt the same way. She recently started shacking up with this hot guy, and not only is she attracted to him, she actually likes him. It has thrown us both for a loop; we're busy girls that have been enjoying the single

life, and now we have these guys in our lives to add to the mix. Neither of us knows when this change took place, but I have a feeling that the saying really is true: Sex does change everything.

Before I lost my virginity I didn't want a guy to come near me until I knew something was happening between us, and now I'm okay with the concept of one-night stands and am surprised if it has potential to be more than that. In fact, I used to be happy when I started liking a guy because it meant I could be in a relationship with him, and now it just causes a dilemma—I can't decide if I really want to get involved with something or if I even have time for it.

I hear horror stories about the stupid fights my tied-down friends get into with their significant others, and not only does it remind me of every boyfriend woe I've had in the past, but it makes me never want to get involved again.

I do admit, though, that it is nice having a warm body to cuddle and laugh with on a lazy Sunday morning. But I'm getting ahead of myself. Right now I'm still single, having good sex and a crush on a cute guy I feel comfortable around. It's like the best of both worlds, and it doesn't get much better than that. And as of right now, I've got nothing to lose.

tbreyne@chroniclemail.com

## JACKASS OF THE WEEK



And here we go again. George Michael has officially become one of the world's biggest jackasses—for the second time. Not even a year ago he spent a week in the Jackass Hall of Fame after cops found him passed out behind the wheel of his parked car in February, charged him with possession of drugs and discovered an array of sex toys in the backseat.

This time, things aren't much different. Michael was once again discovered sleeping at the wheel, except he was in the middle of the frickin' road at a stoplight and apparently under the influence of drugs or alcohol. It is also reported he had marijuana in the car.

Here are some words of advice to this idiot: Wake up! With sleeping problems like his, how difficult could it possibly be to hire a limo driver, take a cab or get a designated driver? We imagine Michael must be leading quite a lonely, misguided life if he can't even gather up the money or the friends to help him out. Maybe he's just a skeezy stoner who spent all of his cash from his formerly awesome career on drugs and men.

The Chronicle took up the opportunity to chastise the man back in February, but unfortunately an incident that took place in April managed to fly under our radar. Michael was involved in a hit-and-run with three cars one early weekend morning, though no charges were filed. The former Wham! singer hit one car and attempted to drive away only to smash into another car, which in turn hit another one.

So basically, he shouldn't have a license and has serious issues with drug abuse. According to his partner, though, he's A-OK. He offered up a statement to the public about the incident: "He's fine, and I've got him a McDonald's." Ha. If that's all it takes to fix this jackass up, then keep the burgers coming.

—T. Breynne



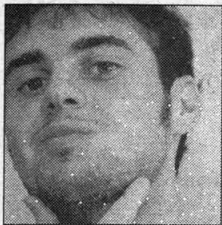
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 Mary Kroeck - mkroeck@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8971  
 Michael Claire - mclaire@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8982  
 Brent White - bwhite@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8970

### Ratings Guide

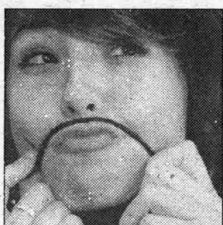
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Mark  
Byrne



Tiffany  
Breynne



Jen  
Fischer

## Top 5

**Octobeard:** Brent White, The Chronicle's West Coast native, brought us an amazing celebration of manhood in the form of Octobeard. On the last day of September we all shaved our faces clean, and won't shave again until November. It's already pretty trashy. But it's trashy in a really masculine, itchy and ridiculously awesome sort of way. Get ready for some mountain-man beards, and feel free to participate if you're able.

**Mondays:** I hate Mondays. For some reason, through some stroke of idealistic idiocy, I committed myself to working my coffee shop job from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Monday. So, every Monday in my 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. class, once all the espresso wears off, I take a little involuntary nap. Sorry, teach.

**Tuesdays:** What a great day, if only because I don't have to wake up at 4:30 a.m. like I do on Mondays. God, I hate Mondays.

**Wednesdays:** Wednesdays are stressful, long and stupid. By the end of the day, all I want to do is drink. I'm fairly certain that, because of Wednesdays, my friends think I'm an alcoholic. I'm not, I swear; I've just had a long three days.

**Sam Adam's Oktoberfest Brew:** Better than regular Sam Adams, this beer gets me all jazzed for the coming season. No, no, not fall, you loser. The drinking season. Some people know it as school, but I think of it as a build up of stress that ends each weekend at the bottom of a bottle. I'm not one to discriminate, but if that bottle is filled with something tasty, like this brew, then it's even better.

**Octobeard:** (Refer to Mark Byrne's column for an explanation of this hairy event.) I've always wondered what it would be like to hang out with mountain men. I guess I'll find out for the next month or so while my co-workers prove their manliness. Maybe I'll turn this month into my own version with Octopits. Hot.

**Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays:** At this point in the week, I've just given up on everything productive and focus on more important things like sleep, my thirstiness and just living life, dude.

**Sufjan Stevens at The Riviera Theater, Sept. 26:** Words can't really describe how awesome this man is live. From his winged back-up band to the picturesque films of fluffy clouds and springtime rolling in the background, his concert was a smorgasbord of aesthetic beauty. Then the music! His pretty voice over the intense orchestration is still echoing through my mind like the sounds of heaven.

**'The White Album':** I just recently rediscovered this masterpiece of an album and don't know how I could have forgotten about it for so long. Unfortunately I'm missing the second CD, so I can only enjoy the first one, but that's okay, most of my favorites are on that side. Thank you, Paul, John, George—my favorite!—and Ringo for being the fantastic musicians you are.

**New tattoos:** So sweet and well worth the pain.

**Octobeard:** Hairy faces are the cat's meow at The Chronicle right now. Nothing says "I'm a manly man" like plentiful tufts of facial fur. I'll just admire the ruggedly handsome faces around the office and be perfectly content with the society's expectation that women keep things clean shaven.

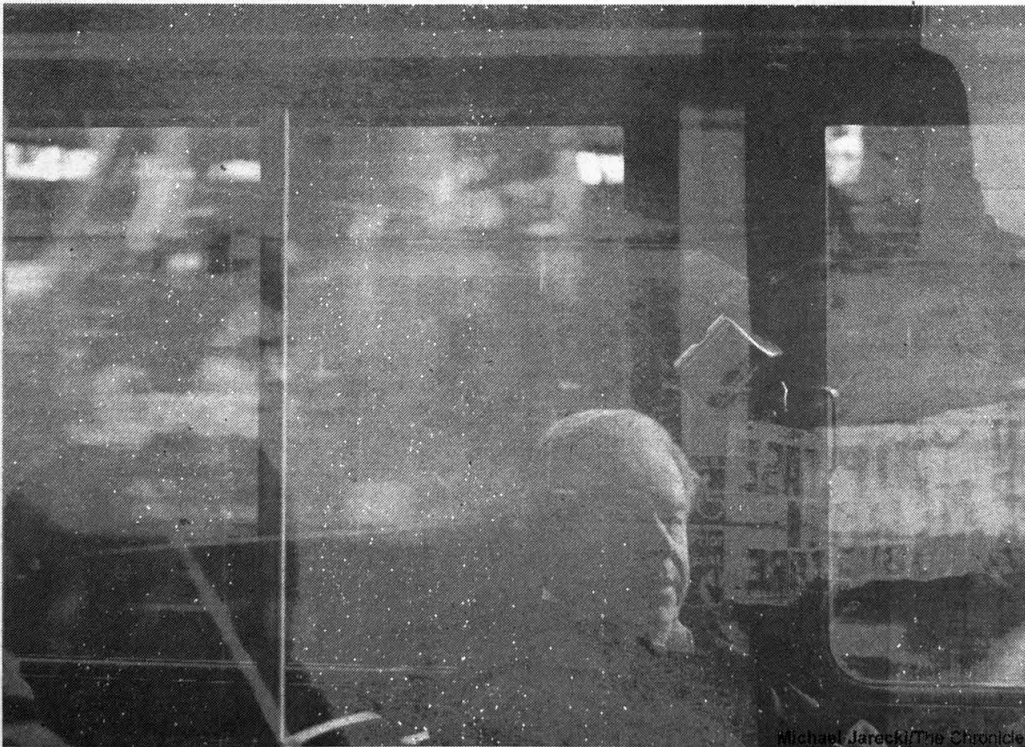
**Sundays:** Drinking coffee, eating eggs and watching "Meet the Press" leads to an afternoon of watching football and taking a nap in front of the TV before hitting the books. Every now and then there's a pint of beer with friends before dinner. Ah, Sunday, if only the rest of the week were so blissfully peaceful.

**Maps:** I'll admit it; I'm a great big loser. Give me an atlas and I'll be occupied for hours, dreaming, imagining. Just looking at the rivers, mountains and national parks stirs my dormant wanderlust. I love geography just about as much as I love words.

**My reclusive neighbors:** Other than the occasional sound of a vacuum cleaner, I have no proof they exist. Two-and-a-half years and I couldn't identify a single one of them in a lineup. Witness protection program? Hideous birthmarks? Social phobias? Vampires? Seriously. What's their deal?

**Sports movies:** Even if they aren't necessarily sad, they make me cry. *The Sandlot*, *61*, *Remember the Titans*, *Breaking Away*, *Hoop Dreams* and *The Babe* are amongst my favorites. The struggles, the triumphs, the life lessons, I swear everything about the human condition can be expressed through sports.

## Exposure



Photographers are singular people, always keeping an eye out no matter what the situation is. Shooting for a newspaper, photographers are given a good amount of mundane assignments that might be for stories on buildings or wall art around the city. The challenge becomes: how to take an interesting picture of a building. There is no straightforward answer as to how, but sometimes the interesting picture becomes the scene right behind you. A homeless person holds a sign while a man waits for the bus to move, with a woman rushing north on State Street. The humdrum assignment becomes that much more interesting while observing the whole scene.

Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

**MONDAY** / Check out new comedie talent at Rising Star Showcase at Zanies, 1548 N. Wells St. The show starts at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 plus a two item minimum. **TUESDAY** / Check out the opening of the art exhibit 'Vanishing Point: Notes on a Disappearing City' Bell Studio, 3428 N. Southport Ave. The exhibit opens at 12 p.m., and closes at 7 p.m. Admission is free. **WEDNESDAY** / Less Than Jake and Catch 22 perform at the House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. The show starts at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$17. **THURSDAY** / Damon Williams performs a comedy show at the HOKin Annex, 623 S. Wabash Ave. The show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is free. **FRIDAY** / As part of Chicago Artists Month, the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 732, is participating in an Open Studios program. The studios are open from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Admission is free. **SATURDAY** / Peter Yarrow, of the folk group Peter, Paul and Mary, performs at the Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$24-\$28. **SUNDAY** / Silverstein performs at House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. The show starts at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

## October

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



# Fear Factor meets Fright Fest

Six Flags' disgusting new challenge for parkgoers

By Kristen Kalter/Staff Writer

This year, Six Flags Great America challenges guests at its annual Fright Fest to consume live, hissing, horned and slimy cockroaches in exchange for front-of-the-line passes. For those who like to go on Batman, Superman, American Eagle,

Iron Wolf or any other of the roller coasters at Great America, but hate waiting in long lines for hours, this is the challenge they will have to face.

The pre-Halloween fest takes place weekends, from Oct. 7 to Oct. 29. At a designated area on

Fridays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Great America will give guests the chance to eat one live Madagascan hissing cockroach in exchange for four line passes. The cockroach is two to three

inches long and weighs up to 0.8 ounces.

On Friday the 13th, they will cook the roaches and hold a contest to see who can eat the most in one minute in front of an audience. Jim Taylor, public relations manager for Six Flags Great America, said Great America is seeking someone to try and defeat the world record of eating 36 roaches in one minute, currently held by Ken Edwards of England.

Taylor said this is the first year Great America is offering the roach-eating contest as part of its festival. The Six Flags near Seattle had this promotion last year and ran out of cockroaches, Taylor said. This year, 13 parks nationwide are taking part in the promotion.

While some may simply be disgusted by eating cockroaches, others take issue with the ethics.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, for one, opposes the promotion.

"They don't deserve to be eaten alive, especially for marketing purposes," said Pulin Modi, college campaign coordinator for PETA.

Modi said there are health risks in consuming live roaches, such as allergies and gastrointestinal diseases, and that once someone bites into a roach, their mouths will be filled with excrement. Modi said the roach-eating promotion affects children and teaches them to be insensitive toward animals. According to Modi, PETA and the Lake County Health Department warned Six Flags of the risks.

The consumption of Madagascan cockroaches is common in many parts of the world. In protein-scarce places, people consume roaches and other insects on a regular basis, said Michael Staver, food scientist at the Kendall College School of Culinary Arts. Staver said cultures in places such as South America, Asia and Africa use insects to supplement their diets because they can't afford the meats for protein.

Fright Fest attendees will have to decide for themselves if

trying this international delicacy is worth it.

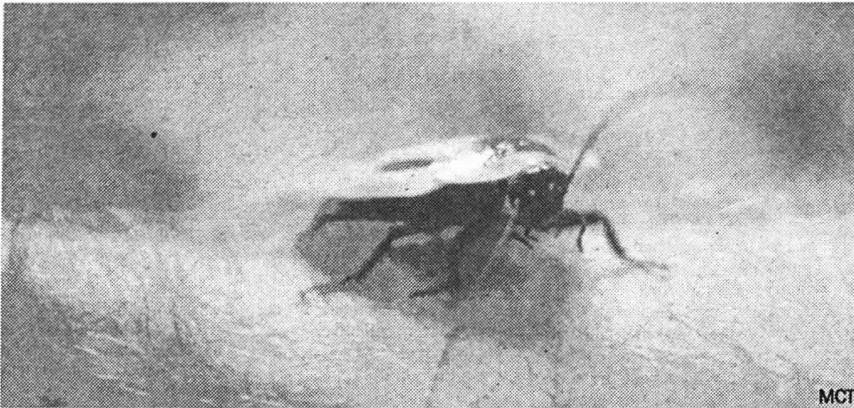
"I wouldn't want to eat those things, first of all, because I'm a vegetarian, and they might give me some weird disease or bite my lip," said Kristina Davis, 22, a research assistant at the UIC College of Nursing. "Maybe I would for a six-figure salary."

Taylor said that prior to eating any roaches, people would need to sign a waiver stating that they understand what they are about to eat. He noted that if someone is allergic to shrimp or lobster, they should stay away, as they would be allergic to cockroach as well, and guests under 18 will need a guardian to sign the waiver for them.

Staver said that people compare the taste of cockroaches to brown rice.

"It might be like eating popcorn," Staver said. "You just have to get them crisp enough so that they won't taste gooey."

chronicle@colum.edu



MCT

Visitors to Six Flags Great America have the opportunity to eat a Madagascan hissing cockroach, like the one pictured above, to gain four front-of-the-line passes to any ride in the theme park.

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# A day for the dreamers

Imagine all the people living for ... John Lennon Day

By Mary Kroeck/Assistant A&E Editor

Some may say he's a dreamer, but a loyal John Lennon fan thinks the late musician deserves an international holiday.

Sixty-six years after the birth of John Lennon, Mark Elsis of New York City is trying to create an international day to remember the musician who was part of one of the most popular bands of all time—The Beatles.

Elsis swore that he would "change the world" on Dec. 8, 1980—the day Lennon was shot and killed in front of the Dakota, an apartment complex where Lennon and Yoko Ono used to live near Central Park in New York City.

"I was [at the Dakota] longer than anybody else that day," Elsis said. "There was unbelievable grief. The shock, the anguish, because he touched so many people. It was the end of an era."

A former New York City cab driver, Elsis now lives in Siesta Key, Fla. and is the owner and executive director of johnlennon.com and john-lennon.net.

Elsis started the petition to create an international John Lennon Day on Oct. 9, 2005—the anniversary of Lennon's 65th birthday—because he believes that Lennon gave his life for the message of peace and love.

"I think The Beatles were the biggest things in the later half of the 20th century, like Gandhi, like

Jesus, only modern day crucifixion is a bullet," Elsis said.

In order for the petition to be sent to every governing body, heads of state and the Secretary General of the U.N., Elsis is trying to gather approximately 64 million people—about one percent of the world's population—to sign the petition. It will continue to be sent out every time another 64 million people sign.

The petition has 3,493 verified signatures and 7,051 current signatures.

Gary Yerkins, an artist in residence in Columbia's Music Department, thinks Lennon's work is both musically and politically important and would like to see the day become a reality.

"Personally, I think it would be great to have a John Lennon Day," Yerkins said. "I don't see what the argument would be against it, except politically. John Lennon represents a certain humanistic point of view that some people object to."

Yerkins, who grew up listening to The Beatles and felt they were like "really cool big brothers" to musicians everywhere, explained that he believes Lennon's heart was always in the right place and spoke best through his art.

"Lennon's use of language was very artful," Yerkins said. "He was a pioneer in that regard. 'Happiness is a Warm

Gun' [for example] is a Beatles song, but it is a Lennon song. The nonsensical phonetics and language are very sophisticated ... It's a little bit of Dada, a little bit of Lewis Carroll."

Although Lennon was mainly known for his music, he also wrote several books and made sketches of various events in his life. Ono gave one of his drawings, a picture of their bed-in protest, to the Peace Museum, 100 N. Central Park Ave.

"John's life story was one of transformation," wrote Melissa McGuire, director of the Peace Museum, in an e-mail. "He achieved greatness in a short period of time and it was his passion, vision and values that influenced an entire generation and continues to resonate with younger generations."

McGuire explained that Ono serves on the museum's national advisory board and visited the museum years ago with her son, Sean. McGuire also noted that last year the museum held a celebration to commemorate Lennon's 65th birthday and had people come to the museum to sign the petition for an international John Lennon Day.

"I remember [Lennon] most for his legacy of advocating for peace," McGuire wrote. "I wonder what he would have to say, or better yet, what he would be doing to



John Lennon, pictured with Yoko Ono, would have celebrated his 66th birthday on Oct. 9, 2006.

address the current state of the world if he were still alive."

Not everyone feels that Lennon is worth this kind of praise.

Cheryl Giscombe, a manager at a governmental office in Chicago, doesn't think how Lennon's work did anything to really bring about change.

"I don't see what [Lennon] did to change the world," said Giscombe. "I don't equate him to Martin Luther King or Gandhi. Don't get me wrong, I think the music is nice. I just don't see what he did [that deserves an

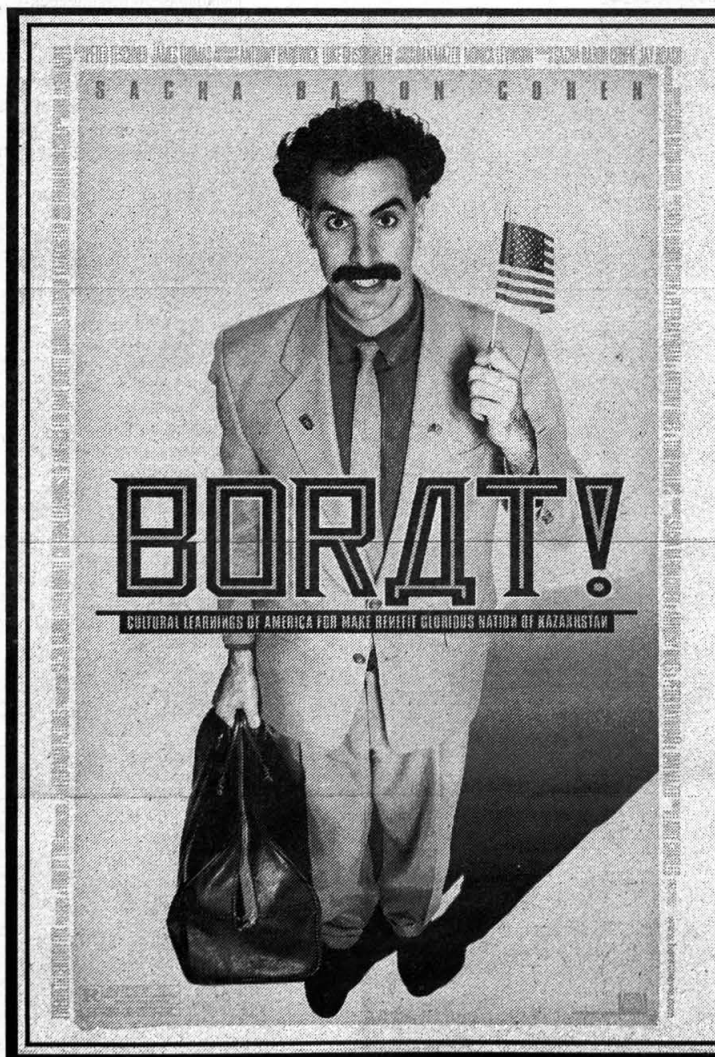
international holiday]."

Elsis acknowledges the fact that while Lennon did many good things in his life, in the end, he was only human.

"John Lennon had his faults, plenty of them, but he was always trying to be better," Elsis said. "I think that he encapsulates what an artist and musician should be. He had a message that was very simple—love."

To sign the petition for an international John Lennon Day, visit [www.johnlennonday.com](http://www.johnlennonday.com).

[mkroeck@chroniclemail.com](mailto:mkroeck@chroniclemail.com)



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**IN THEATRES FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD!**

# Nerds need lovin' too

*Geeky guys and gals play romantic games*

By Mark Byrne/A&E Editor

Bathsheba Birman tried speed dating once—it wasn't her cup of tea. So she, along with her friend Julia Borcherts, decided to start a dating event that would cater more to their "nerdy" interests.

The product was Nerds at Heart, a three-month-old singles group that meets once a month at Guthrie's Tavern, 1300 W. Addison St. Each event features board games—a staple of the

Wrigleyville bar—drinks, trivia focused on stereotypically nerdy topics, and most importantly, a place for self-professed nerds to mingle.

"I felt like there should be a venue for [nerds] that wasn't so clubby, where they could be themselves and be around like-minded people," said Birman, adding that she and Borcherts were no strangers to the stereotype. "We're pretty nerdy. We're

both writers."

Birman isn't necessarily opposed to other dating services; she said they just aren't for her, and that they "fill a niche for a different market."

When she and Borcherts started Nerds at Heart, their intention was to get nerds to do things they might normally do, like play board games, but in an environment where they can meet new people. They also wanted to cre-

ate a singles meeting that was not as pressured as the other dating services they'd tried.

"Because people are playing a game, the focus is not on interviewing someone or being interviewed," said Borcherts, also a writer and a professor in Columbia's Fiction Writing Department. "It's a little bit more relaxed."

In order to publicize the events, they trusted their nerd instincts to discern the right places to put up fliers.

"I was trying to figure out how to market it, and if I were to flier, where would I flier?" Birman said. "My sister [suggested], 'Oh, just go everywhere you go.'"

Despite what one might expect by the name, Nerds at Heart meetings aren't casting calls for a *Revenge of the Nerds* sequel. Rather, as Borcherts said, the attendees are more of "inner geeks."

"It's more nerds at heart than people who are seriously socially challenged," Borcherts said. "We've never actually had someone show up with adhesive tape on their glasses."

Mark Fellows, who bartends and manages at Guthrie's Tavern, has worked during the Nerds at Heart meetings, and has nothing negative to say about them.

According to Fellows, his bar sees a number of singles groups, which he thinks is a product of the laid-back atmosphere that it offers. Where sports bars or dance clubs might be too loud and busy for a couple to relax and talk, Guthrie's is perfect for that, and with the board games, it lends itself perfectly to the needs of Nerds at Heart. Fellows claims that they are among the better singles groups that come through the bar.

"It's just a good cross-section of people," Fellows said. "Even though they call themselves nerds, if you were to look at them as a group and try to stereotype, you really couldn't."

The estimated 30 people that

come to each meeting are pretty evenly split between men and women, which surprised both the founders and attendees.

"It's funny because each gender has the impression that it's going to be heavily weighted on their side," Borcherts said. "The guys, I think, are most surprised to see an even sampling. They were positive that there were no nerd girls out there."

Billi Duvalier is proof that there are. The 36-year-old global underwriter qualifies herself as a nerd because she "graduated from high school three weeks shy of [her] 17th birthday."

"I've done a little online dating, but usually it's through word of mouth," Duvalier said. "People always seem to have an ulterior motive with [online dating]. At least with this, everybody there already has a love of board games."

Duvalier claims she is a board game nerd and Taboo is her current favorite. However, when asked what kind of nerd she most identifies with—a part of each event—she goes with something else.

"I'm a book nerd," Duvalier said. "When I die, the epitaph on my stone will say 'she was wellread.'"

Frank Christ, however, only needs to say his profession to prove his nerdiness: He designs video games for cell phones. Christ, who is also seeking a masters degree in creative writing at Columbia, knows Birman and Borcherts personally and has attended all three events so far. While he has made friends and enjoys the meetings, he hasn't yet found a romantic interest.

"I've met some people, but I haven't met anyone," Christ said.

While the creators have noticed phone numbers being passed around—Duvalier claims she has one potential in mind—the general consensus is that the nerd nights are more of a fun way to meet other people they can relate to.

"If nothing else, it's a good time to go out and have a good evening," Duvalier said.

Birman said that the project has been a hit so far, and they are looking for ways to expand. Though they all love Guthrie's Tavern and think it is a great fit, they are considering switching things up with different venues. A queer version of Nerds at Heart is also in the works.

Regardless of any hookups that can be directly linked to Nerds at Heart, the program is successful in the way it brings together a large group of people who may have different interests, yet—at least according to Birman—all get along fairly well.

"Interestingly, a lot of the time we see guys just sitting around talking, because they have a lot in common," Birman pointed out.

Because of that, the direction is unsure. Given the ease of amity among participants, Birman did not seem opposed to eventually making the focus more on friendship.

"Maybe at one point we'll just have a big nerd party," Birman said.

Nerds at Heart meets next at Guthrie's Tavern, 1300 W. Addison St., at 7 p.m. Admission, which includes one free drink, is \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door.

mbyrne@chroniclemail.com



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Bathsheba Birman and Julia Borcherts are the creators of Nerds at Heart, a singles group that meets at Guthrie's Tavern, 1300 W. Addison Ave.

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# Parkour: The Art of Intuitive Movement

**With veins bulging on his fists, Mike Zernow gripped his hands tightly onto the rail. A harsh ray of sunlight forced him to squint into the seemingly bottomless stairwell he was about to jump over.**

"It's all about getting over your fear," Zernow said, jerking his arms and neck to loosen up. "Once you do that, it doesn't matter how dangerous the jump is."

Zernow is part of a small but growing community of would-be gymnasts who climb, jump and vault over urban structures in an activity called Parkour. The physical discipline requires efficient movement between two locations as fast as possible, and if obstacles are in the way, Parkour participants, often called "traceurs," use their skills to pass over them in the fastest and most direct manner possible. This could mean clearing gaps, going over or under rails—even scaling walls.

The term Parkour is derived from the French word "parcours," which translates in English as "course," and was started a short time ago by two Frenchmen, Sebastien Foucan and David Belle. Foucan's inspiration to start Parkour came from his interests in free running, an act where participants try to pass obstacles in the most efficient way possible, while Belle was influenced by his interests in martial arts and gymnastics. Thanks to the Internet and pop culture, Parkour has crept across the Atlantic and is today gaining popularity among teenagers and twentysomethings.

The co-creators of the sport have appeared in both movies and commercials, further adding to the recent Parkour craze. Belle starred in the 2004 film *Banlieue 13*, which depicted a number of Parkour sequences, and Foucan is making an appearance in the upcoming James Bond film, *Casino Royale* as the character Mollaka.

While professional traceurs are leaping into the movie industry, a large number of young amateurs are participating in the sport.

One such athlete is Ryan Cousins, a 20-year-old animation major at Columbia and friend of Zernow, who said he's been doing Parkour for five years.

"You don't have to be super beefy to do Parkour," Cousins said after

making a jump from a concrete structure to a wall. "It's all about balance and coordination."

Zernow, who did free running and acrobatics on the Madonna "Confessions" tour, agreed with Cousins and said Parkour is about training for any situation whether its related to Parkour or not.

"[Parkour] is a personal gain," Zernow said between jumps. "It mentally helps me overcome obstacles, and it reminds me to keep on a straight path. A huge part of Parkour is training your mind and body to work as one."

Both Zernow and Cousins, along with a few friends, frequently the University of Illinois Chicago campus to practice. A large courtyard with numerous concrete structures, stairwells, light poles and walls sits in the middle of the campus.

In addition to UIC, Zernow, Cousins and a few others in their group said they regularly practice at both Millennium Park and Grant Park. But since some of the activities take place on private property, issues of trespassing and liability for injury surround Parkour.

Mark Rosati, Associate Chancellor of Public Affairs at UIC, said Parkour places its participants both in physical and legal risk on his campus.

"They are subject [to] reckless activities on behalf of UIC," Rosati said. "If it's an obvious risk to themselves or property or others, they will be asked to leave."

However, Zernow said that traceurs respect the property they practice on, and that they do little or no damage to the urban structures.

"If you think about it, all people deface public property," Zernow said. "People spit gum on the ground, they throw cigarette butts everywhere and they leave footprints on the sidewalk. But rain washes away the footprints we leave."

The damage Parkour can do to public and private structures may be open to debate, but the results of physical injury are real. Parkour requires extensive training in order to avoid injury.

Moses Harris Jr., a traceur and stunt performer for the upcoming film *I Am Legend*, which stars Will Smith, said the level of danger depends on the person's ability and skill.

"The more advanced members develop discipline from jumping from curb to curb, then park bench to park bench, and they never do things to impress people or show off," Harris said. "If done correctly it's not dangerous, but there is risk involved. If they're jumping from roof top to roof top, they know what they're doing."

Harris said he's been doing Parkour for two and a half years on both a

**"Parkour is a personal gain," Zernow said between jumps. "It mentally helps me overcome obstacles, and it reminds me to keep on a straight path. A huge part of Parkour is training your mind and body to work as one."**





**"If you think about it, all people deface public property," Zernow said. "People spit gum on the ground, they throw cigarette butts everywhere and they leave footprints on the sidewalk. But rain washes away the footprints we leave."**

professional and amateur level. If you're careful, there isn't a lot of risk for amateur traceurs, Harris said.

But injuries among amateurs happen. Kevin Haack, a friend of Zernow and Cousins who attends Chicago jams on a regular basis, injured himself while attempting a jump on the campus of UIC.

"My bicep is definitely dented," said Haack, grimacing and gripping his arm. He lifted his shirt and revealed a nasty scrape.

"Dude, what happened?" asked Zernow.

Haack said he was just jumping around when he injured himself.

"Accidents happen. It's a high-impact sport," he said.

Many have been inspired to take up Parkour after watching videos on the Internet, specifically Youtube.com, where one video of Belle has been watched over 50,000 times, according to the website. The Internet has provided the Parkour community with a forum for professional and amateur traceurs to organize jams and discuss the activity.

Mark Toorock, an avid Parkour participant who runs AmericanParkour.com, said that although the Internet has inspired many to take up the activity, online Parkour videos can be misinforming.

"Internet videos are a big danger," Toorock said. "Everyone in videos started out not being great, especially in the free running videos. The first thing you jump off of shouldn't be eight feet tall. Constant practice is the only way you can get good at Parkour."

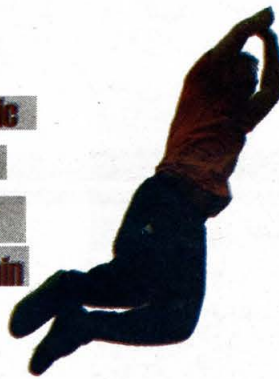
Toorock said he's been doing Parkour for almost five years. He was inspired to take up the sport after seeing Belle doing Parkour in London. It provides him with a sense of accomplishment, he said.

"[Parkour gives you] a sense of yourself, your fears, your boundaries and your physical fitness," Toorock said. "It gives you confidence, and at some point this whole concept of being able to get around obstacles creeps into your life and it becomes less physical and more mental."

Because Parkour originated in Europe, the majority of traceurs remain overseas. But Zernow said he knows about 40 people in the Chicago area who do Parkour, and new people are taking up the activity every day.

Noah Rotello's first outing was the UIC jam with Zernow and Cousins. The sophomore television major at Columbia was scared during his first jam, and worried about "cracking [his] face or teeth on the concrete." Still, he plans on attending future jams with his friends, and is anxious to learn from Zernow and Cousins, whom he said he admires.

"I don't think fear enters their minds," he said.



Story by  
Chrissy Mahmeister  
and  
Brent Steven White

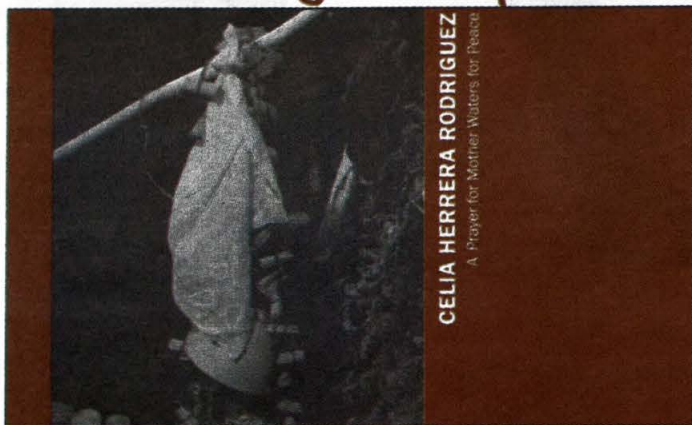
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RECEPTION: OCTOBER 26, 2006, 5-7PM

BEST OF SHOW PRESENTATIONS: 5:30PM

TALK THE WALK: OCTOBER 12, 2006, 6-8PM  
A CURATORIAL TOUR OF COLUMBIA'S EXHIBITION SPACES

The Albert P. Weisman Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1974 to encourage both undergraduate and graduate Columbia College Chicago students to complete projects in all fields of communication. With projects spanning 10 disciplines from 47 artists, this year's exhibition cuts a creative swath across themes as divergent as the business of dying, professional wrestling, and synesthetic experiences.

## C33 GALLERY, 33 E Congress Avenue.

HOURS: 9 AM - 7 PM MONDAY - THURSDAY AND 9 AM - 5 PM ON FRIDAY

### SNAP TO GRID, OCTOBER 20 - NOVEMBER 10, 2006

RECEPTION: OCTOBER 24, 5-7PM

TALK THE WALK: OCTOBER 12, 2006, 6-8PM  
A CURATORIAL TOUR OF COLUMBIA'S EXHIBITION SPACES

CURATED BY TRACY TAYLOR, ALYSIA KAPLAN, AND MICHELLE WASSON

Snap to Grid is an exhibition conceived of and juried by three Chicago artists who currently teach digital media in Chicago's premiere college institutions—Columbia College and The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Envisioned as an exhibition opportunity for students who currently use digital media as a tool in their creative process, the jurors selected artwork directly from their departments by students whose work exhibits exemplary craft and thought-provoking ideas.

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In conjunction with the Columbia College Chicago FOCO Festival, The Glass Curtain Gallery presents the installation and performance *A Prayer to the Mother Waters for Peace* by Celia Herrera Rodriguez.

*A Prayer for the Mother Waters for Peace* thoughtfully addresses issues of economics, war and ecology. This multi-media installation and performance will be determined by the collaborative efforts of Celia Herrera Rodriguez, students of Columbia College Chicago and guest performers. On October 12, the exhibition will debut with an elaborate, multimedia ceremonial blessing using water collected from areas of conflict across the globe.

TALK THE WALK, OCTOBER 12, 2006, ALSO FEATURES:  
LOW RIDER VEHICLES ON PARADE, 600 BLOCK OF S WABASH  
Fifteen automobiles created by low rider car clubs in the Chicago area will be on display.

LOWRIDERS: PORTRAITS FROM NEW MEXICO, HOKIN ANNEX GALLERY (BACK GALLERY)

A portfolio of 12 photographs of lowriders and the people who covet them. Created in 1980 by Meridel Rubenstein. Photos on loan from the Museum of Contemporary Photography.

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# Painting a new picture of Chicago

*Chicago Artists Month brings professional artists and the general public together*

By Mary Kroeck/Assistant A&E Editor

Thoughts of autumn colors, the start of the cold weather season or preparations for Halloween typically come to mind when one thinks of October in Chicago. For the last 11 years, however, the city has been trying to make people think about something else—art.

October is Chicago Artists Month. As part of the program, studios all across the city open their doors to give the public a glimpse into many of Chicago's professional artists' workspaces, most of which are usually closed to the public.

Cynthia Quick, director of programming for the department of cultural affairs, said that about 50,000 people participated in approximately 100 events that were held last year, and she is hoping that with 250 different events throughout the city more people will be able to participate this year.

"Over the years, in terms of visual artists, the public has a much better sense of who they are, what they look like [and] the work they do," Quick said. "There's a more interactive relationship with the public."

One of several buildings participating in the open studios program is the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave. Kathleen Newman, who is coordinating this year's event, said that the building is "a gem that most people don't know about" and encourages people to come and see the space whenever they can.

"Frank Braum, who wrote the *Wizard of Oz*, used to rent a studio here," Newman said. "Frank Lloyd Wright used to rent a studio here. The building itself has a really cool history."

Newman said that what she enjoys about Chicago Artists Month is that it gives artists, such as painters, who normally work alone, an opportunity to interact with one another as well as meet the public. She also believes that what is interesting about the Fine Arts Building open studios is that the architecture of the building is "beautiful" and people are "intrigued by the artists themselves, the spaces people work in and the things [like paintings] they wouldn't normally see on display" that they can discover.

This year's Chicago Artists Month is also important to the Fine Arts Building because it is the last time the Fine Arts Gallery, located on the 4th floor of the building, will be open. The gallery was a co-op run by a number of artists who

pitched in money to operate the space. It is scheduled to close on Oct. 21 because the gallery is under new ownership.

"I don't know what's going to happen to the space," Newman, who not only rents a studio space in the building but also took part in the artists' co-op, said. "It's been a gallery in the city for 11 years. I'm sad that the gallery's moving out, but I feel fortunate [to have been a part of it]."

Adam Brooks, a professor of art and coordinator of the fine arts program at Columbia, thinks the program is a good idea, but also questions its visibility.

"I think the fact is there's an attempt to raise awareness [about the program and visual artists]," Brooks said. "I don't know if there wasn't a Chicago Artists Month if people would notice [its absence]."

Brooks, along with his partner in Industry of the Ordinary, Mathew Wilson, is also involved in the programs of Chicago Artists Month. Industry of the Ordinary takes average, everyday occurrences and explores them in a variety of ways to make people think. The group's first performance, "Dropping 163 lbs. on Daley Plaza," had approximately 75 performers simultaneously drop an article of white clothing at Daley Plaza without drawing attention to themselves. They picked 163 pounds because it is the approximate average weight of an American adult.

"More people are excited about the Bears than Chicago Artists Month," Brooks said. "There's not enough emphasis placed on art and the fact that artists have a lot to say."

Brooks thinks that while the majority of people may not know Chicago Artists Month is happening, he feels that awareness of the programs is going in the right direction.

"It seems obvious [the program has] reached a more prominent profile than in the past," Brooks said. "It would be good if it meant something to more than just artists. I would like to see [artist recognition] a year round occurrence."

For the complete list of the 250 programs taking place during Chicago Artists Month, including a list of all the studios participating in the open studios program, visit [www.cityofchicago.org/culturalaffairs](http://www.cityofchicago.org/culturalaffairs).

[mkroeck@chroniclemail.com](mailto:mkroeck@chroniclemail.com)

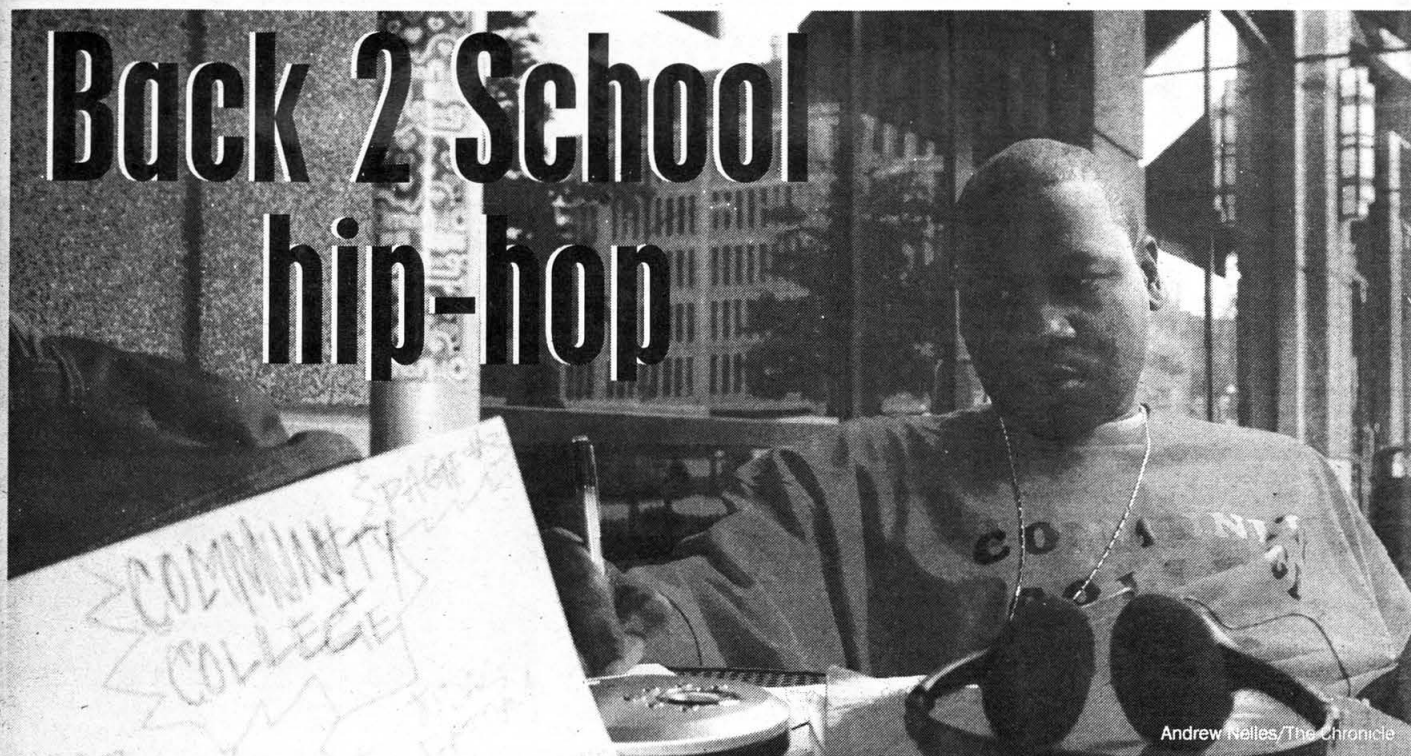


Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

A view of paintings and sculptures on display at the Fine Arts Building's Gallery, 410 S. Michigan Ave. The center sculpture is a view of 'Insight' by Sheila Ganch.



# Back 2 School hip-hop



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Robert Farmby, also known as "Saul Original Man" writes lyrics outside of the University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St.

## Musician offers a suggestion for what to do after high school

By Mark Byrne/A&E Editor

When Robert Farmby makes music, he doesn't concern himself with topics familiar in mainstream rap, like drugs, drinking, women or his bank statement. Instead, he talks about going to college.

The 25-year-old Chicago native makes it a point to be a hip-hop artist with a positive message—one he wouldn't be ashamed of if his father heard. Under the stage name Saul Original Man (the first word being an acronym for "spitting all unheard lyric[sic]"), Farmby preaches the benefits of

going to community college.

The single, an anthem titled "Community College," features an extensive 'shout out' section, to Chicago city colleges and a few colleges and universities around the Midwest, including Columbia.

While his personal mission is to get kids to consider higher education, Farmby himself is a dropout. After studying in the Pre-Med program at University of Illinois at Chicago for a couple of couple years, Farmby discontinued his studies in order to work full time and focus on his music career.

Farmby spent five years working as a manager at Foot Locker, and the last two as a Security Guard for Securitas. However, he still finds time to record his album, work with his record company, and do serious grassroots marketing for his music.

In order to reach fans, Farmby makes it a point to market his music directly to those he thinks would be interested, by hand-delivering press kits to high schools and colleges; he wants students to hear the song, "so that they know their options."

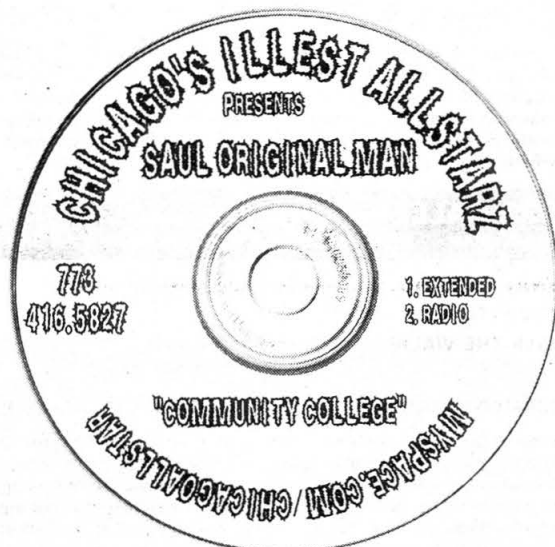
"With this record being about school, I always planned to go back," Farmby said. "But I want to see the success of my record company [first]."

Farmby is also the owner of Chicago's Illest AllStarz [sic], a company he started to help manage his own project and help other artists with their music. The only other person involved in the company is his 17-year-old brother, whom he made vice-president as a gesture of trust and respect.

It was at that age—17 years old—that Farmby remembers being ashamed when his father heard him listening to Notorious B.I.G. one day before church. Notorious B.I.G., a hip-hop artist whose notoriety is largely due to his gang-related murder in 1997, made no effort to shy away from violent themes in his music. Farmby doesn't remember the exact lyrics—"I think he said something like, 'I'm gonna kill you and everyone will be wearing black,'" he recalled—but he does remember what his father said when he heard the song: "Turn it off."

Farmby grew up in Humboldt Park and eventually moved to the Garfield Park area, where he still lives. He wanted to reflect his Christian upbringing by using clean, profanity-free lyrics that offer advice to his young listeners.

"Ray Charles said that a hit



courtesy Robert Farmby

Farmby lists all the information necessary to contact him right on the CD.

record is something that people can relate to," Farmby said. "[So I asked,] what can I do ... that has never been done before?"

The answer, he concluded, was to write about what to do after high school—an issue he is certain is on many kids' minds.

Farmby started writing lyrics in 2000 and recorded them onto his first "mix tape" in 2003. This kind of mix tape refers to a pirated track of beats from a popular song, over which an emerging hip-hop artist will rap his own lyrics. According to Farmby, that is a rather popular method to record music when an artist is just starting out.

The mix tape contained 15 songs, Farmby said, and since then "Community College" is the only one he has studio recorded. However, he is working on a full-length album that is scheduled to be out by Christmas.

Though it may not be overtly apparent for those who only pay attention to mainstream music, inspiring and positive hip-hop like Farmby's does exist—it just doesn't often make it to the

radio.

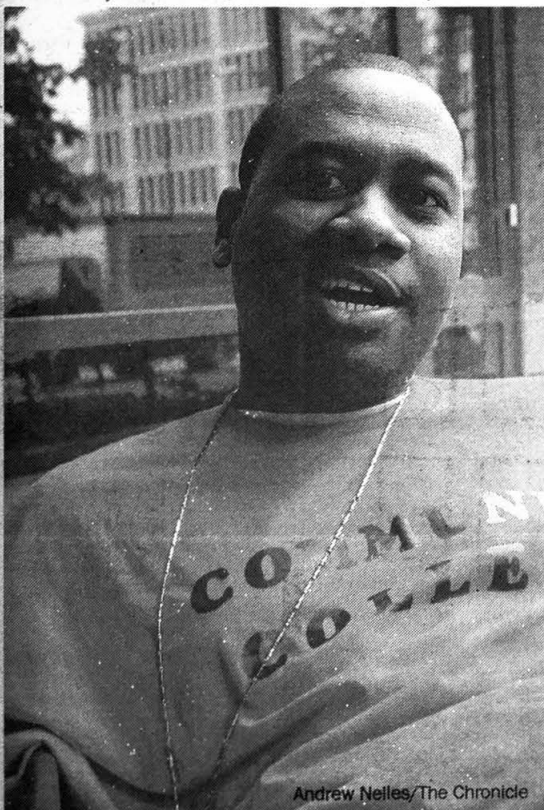
Stephanie Shonekan, a Columbia professor who studies and teaches a course about the culture of hip-hop and rap, said that while a few artists—she cited Talib Kweli, Common and Mos Def—have reached success without sacrificing their positivity, most of that doesn't make it onto popular television stations like MTV or BET.

"Most of the politically conscious and socially conscious hip-hop is done underground," Shonekan said. "A lot of us out here in the mainstream world don't hear a lot of that stuff unless we go digging for it."

Farmby said that his message wasn't aimed at his little brother, but, coincidentally, it may have reached the 17-year-old anyway.

"This happened to be the perfect time [to release "Community College"]," Farmby said. "I just talked to him on the phone and he says he's been filling out college applications."

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Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Farmby publicizes his music with a t-shirt that reads "Community College," the name of his first single.



# Fake assassinations: just as bad?

Controversy and questions surround new film depicting the death of President Bush

By Brent Steven White/Assistant A&E Editor

An English filmmaker has something to say about current our president, and it's causing an uproar both in both the film and political world.

Britain's Channel 4 television network has created a fictional documentary entitled *Death of a President*, which depicts President Bush's assassination during an anti-war rally in Chicago.

Bush's death occurs about 10 minutes into film. A few years later, an investigative documentary is made, which focuses on some of the people involved with the anti-war rally: men, the press and suspects and their families. A Palestinian man is then accused and convicted of the vile act, but the film has a few surprises.

*Death of a President* has already been shown in Britain and at the Toronto Film Festival, where it received the Fipresci prize, an award chosen by international critics. Gabriel Range, who wrote, produced and directed the film, recently sold U.S. distribution rights to Newmarket Films for \$1 million, according to a Sept. 12 Reuters story.

Newmarket, a 12-year-old Los Angeles-based film financing company, recently said it plans to release the film in the U.S. on October 27. Regal Entertainment Group, the country's biggest theater chain, has

refused to show the film.

Even though *Death of a President* hasn't released yet, many are finding the concept of assassinating a sitting U.S. president in a film distasteful and alarming.

"Personally, I wouldn't parody or joke about the death of any person, but that's a purely subjective taste," said Ed Yohnka, director of Communications for the ACLU of Illinois. "But the fact of that matter is that under the First Amendment, we get to make those decisions, and then the marketplace decides if that kind of speech ultimately develops any currency."

It's important to protect people's right to release controversial art or film, even if the majority may find it distasteful, Yohnka said.

But despite the controversy surrounding the new film, some filmmakers don't find the subject matter of *Death of a President* offensive or inappropriate.

Dana Hodgdon, a visiting professor at DePaul University, who teaches courses in film editing and cinematography, said that although he hasn't seen the film, he believes addressing the assassination of a sitting U.S. president isn't entirely distasteful.

"I don't know that it's an artful film, but if you look back in time, there have been other

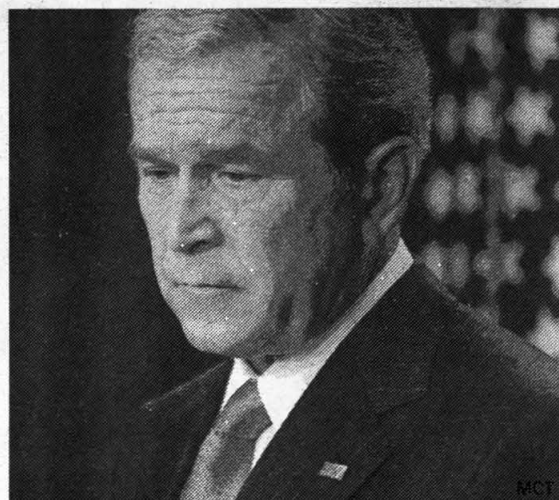
films like this one," Hodgdon said. "People can make films about what ever they want."

Hodgdon pointed to the European film *The Day of the Jackal*. Released in 1973, the film follows a professional assassin who plots to kill the President of France, Charles de Gaulle, whose foreign policies made him controversial in the sixties.

Unlike *The Day of the Jackal*, *Death of a President* utilizes special effects to place the head of Bush onto the body of an actor. The movie also uses real footage from Bush's Jan. 7, 2003 speech before the Economic Club of Chicago. The British network received official White House press credentials to film the event, and the directors spent months in Chicago staging mock anti-war demonstrations for the movie.

In one of three interviews the director has done since the film debuted at the Toronto Film Festival, Range told the L.A. Times that the premise of the film may be offensive to some moviegoers, but it is about present day America. Portraying President Bush as a real character in the film is justified, Range said in the Sept. 12 story.

Some worry *Death of a President* may incite actual harm to Bush, who is experiencing some of his lowest approval ratings since taking office. According to a



'Death of a President' has been purchased by Newmarket Films and will be released in the United States on Oct. 27.

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 2006 Wall Street Journal poll, Bush had 39 percent of the popular vote.

"Most media studies have shown there's no [direct] effect with that, but one can never be sure it [wouldn't] inspire someone to take up an insane action," said professor Black Hawk Hancock, who teaches sociology courses at DePaul University. "I'm sure the film will garner plenty of attention within academic, political and student movement circles [when it is released in the U.S.]."

Still, Hancock, who teaches Popular Culture and the Arts and Sociological Perspectives courses,

agreed with Yohnka and acknowledged that no matter how controversial or distasteful *Death of a President* is, the film shouldn't be censored or restrained artistically in any way.

"The boundaries and parameters of artistic expression should be drawn as widely as possible," Hancock said. "So, whether it's distasteful or not may not be the proper question. If it is considered an aesthetic work, then I certainly wouldn't be in favor of stifling free speech."

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WEEK 2008

Photo: Gary  
David Schaeffer, Harvard  
— Scott F. Brown



● SUNDAY/OCTOBER 15

**5 PM Fiction Department  
Alumni Reading  
Featuring Kathie Bergquist,  
Marianne Wolf, Joyce Wagner,  
Alumni open mic  
immediately following  
Conaway Center, 1104 S. Wabash**

● MONDAY/OCTOBER 16

**3 PM Student Reading**  
With Jess D'Amico, William Brogan,  
Leslie Bradshaw, Hunter Clauss,  
April Newman, Geoff Hyatt  
Student open mic  
immediately following  
Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan

**6:30 PM Bich Nguyen**  
(*Stealing Buddha's Dinner*) readings  
and conversation  
Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan

● TUESDAY/OCTOBER 17

**12 PM Buffet Lunch**  
Film Row Cinema Reception Area  
8th floor, 1104 S. Wabash

**1 PM Robert Boynton**  
[*The New York Journalism*]  
readings and conversation  
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash

**3 PM Cultural Criticism**  
With panelists **Ann Wiens** [art critic  
*Chicago Magazine*] **Cheryl Reed**  
[book critic, *Sun-Times*], **Kelly  
Kleiman** [dance and theater critic,  
WBEZ], **Chris Jones** [theater critic,  
*Chicago Tribune*], and **Danny Postel**  
[senior editor, openDemocracy]  
Moderated by **Steve Edwards** [host,  
848. WBEZ]  
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash

**6:30 PM Lorraine Ali**  
[Senior editor, *Newsweek*, specializ-  
ing in rock music, pop culture  
and Arab-American issues]  
Followed by DJ  
HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo

● WEDNESDAY/OCTOBER 18

**3 PM Faculty Reading**  
Featuring David Lazar,  
David Trinidad, Bryan Smith,  
Teresa Puente, John Schultz,  
Sam Weller  
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash

**6:30 PM Michael McCollly**  
[The After-Dinner Room: Journey  
into Spiritual Activism]  
readings and conversation  
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash

● THURSDAY/OCTOBER 19

**3 PM Creative Nonfiction Pays**  
Publishers and writers discuss  
landing freelance assignments  
**S.L. Wisenberg** [freelance writer  
and teacher], **Sam Jemelity** [editor,  
[playboy.com](http://playboy.com)], **JC Gabel** [editor, *Stop  
Smiling*], and **Jennifer Olvera**  
[freelance writer]  
Moderated by **Jotham Burrello**  
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash

**6:30 PM Jamaica Kincaid**  
*[My Brother, Among Flowers:  
A Walk in the Himalaya]*  
readings and conversation  
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash

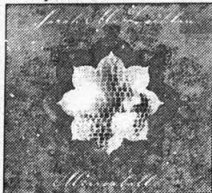
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# Reviews

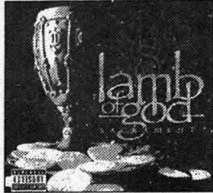
Music

♥ ♥  
**Sarah McLachlan**  
*Mirrorball: The Complete Concert*



Many of the tracks from the original release of *Mirrorball* are on this new 2-disc complete concert album. While the included tracks are a nice addition to your music collection, they're nothing that wouldn't be just as good getting off of iTunes. Unless you're a die-hard Sarah McLachlan fan, don't buy this album. —*M. Kroeck*

♥  
**Lamb of God**  
*Sacrament*



With so much muck to wade through in metal music, choosing who to pay attention to is like deciding what you're hungry for at a buffet. Thankfully, Lamb of God's new album is about as appetizing as a turd disguised as meatloaf. —*B. White*

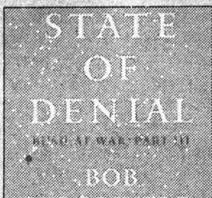
♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥  
**Yo La Tengo**  
*I am Not Afraid of ...*



After 22 years, this Hoboken, N.J., trio, famous for its eclectic music proves they aren't slowing down. Track after fabulous track, this is a must-have for Yo La Tengo fans. Definitely its best since 1997's *I Can Feel the Heart Beating as One*. Heavy? Yes. Mellow? Yes. Awesome? Duh. —*J. Fischer*

Print

♥ ♥ ♥  
**State of Denial**  
*Bob Woodward*



Journalistic legend Bob Woodward takes another in-depth look at our nation's political state, this time putting the Bush administration's handling of Iraq under the microscope. At nearly 600 pages, it's not a light read. The underlying message? We need to pay attention to who's running our country and how. A chilling tome. —*J. Fischer*

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥  
**GQ Magazine**  
*October 2006 Issue*



Page-turning narrative stories are about this month: a look into the life of New Jersey's gay former governor who lied to his state and his family about his sexuality, one writer's hilarious journey to finding the G-Spot and the horror stories of Bill O'Reilly's former guest stars. Hands down, this is one of the best issues I've ever read. —*T. Breyne*

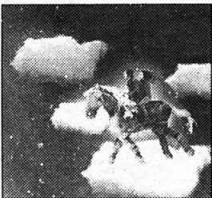
♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥  
**The Invisibles**  
*Grant Morrison*



Grant Morrison's comic book epic describes a world where the occult is quite commonplace. The first volume of seven trade paperback collections is a clear cut inspiration for the first *Matrix* film, and well-written enough to turn even the most closed-minded into a closet comic book fan. —*S. Baltrukonis*

Film

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥  
**The Science of Sleep**  
*Directed by Michel Gondry*



If you enjoy Gondry's music videos, you'll enjoy this highly stylized film, a mixture of absurd yet simple digital effects, mixed languages and misinterpreted love. Between the music videos and *Eternal Sunshine*, his film had a lot to live up to—and it did so almost effortlessly. —*M. Byrne*

♥ ♥  
**The Lake House**  
*Directed by Alejandro Agresti*



A man and woman accidentally end up corresponding via letters and fall in love. The catch? They live two years apart. Though mildly enjoyable for its Chicago setting and commendable for its quirky plot, it failed to grip me the way other cliché love stories have. Do the lovers end up in the same year? Whatever. —*J. Fischer*

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥  
**The Little Mermaid**  
*Directed by John Musker and Ron Clements*



Prince Eric's luscious locks and Ariel's hot mermaid bod never looked as awesome as they do on this new DVD. Plus the story is cute, and it's got two discs of under the sea extras like the making of the animation, the inspiration for it and never before seen deleted scenes! —*T. Breyne*

Misc.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥  
**Old Navy Jacket**



I love the green Old Navy jacket I bought a couple years ago. It's my official bar jacket, which I've named Fidel Castro because whenever I wear it I feel like I should be taking over Cuba. Someone pass me a cigar. —*K. Haburn*

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥  
**Corn Mazes**



Corn Mazes are amazing! Richardson Farm in Spring Grove, Ill. has a corn maze that is advertised as the world's largest. With over 10 miles of trails, it would be easy to get lost with a lover on a crisp fall day, or if smooching isn't your thing, bring some booze and a blowtorch and blaze your own geometric path. —*M. Claire*

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥  
**Panda Express**



Chinese food is always better when it's fake. Real Chinese food, like the stuff from Chinatown, tastes horrible. It doesn't make any sense, but trust me on this one. Chinese food should taste like Panda Express, and various trashy buffets around the city; those guys, somehow, have it dead on. —*M. Byrne*

## Premium Blend

### Taking a closer look at Chicago's local bands

Some bands aim for sold-out arena tours; Chicago-based Chronic Seizure are more comfortable in someone's basement. This hardcore band plays a fast and mean sort of punk rock—the kind you would expect with a name like that. Though the group's members are all well above 30 years old, their dedication to music is not a bit below that of the younger bands who share their genre. With Pat Kelly on bass, Bryan Welch on guitar, Austin Hassett singing the vocals and Craig “The Leg” on drums, Chronic Seizure relies on word-of-mouth publicity to promote their shows. Bassist Pat Kelly spoke with *The Chronicle* about how he got into this crazy business and where he plans to go with it.

**The Chronicle: How long have you guys been playing together?**

Bryan and I got together in late 2004 with Jon on drums. Both our bands at the time [14 or Fight and Rat Bastards] had fizzled out and we were looking to do something new. Austin was a buddy of mine from work and got handed the vocals a few months later. Four months in, Jon quit, so we got Craig [of Repos and Meshugunas] to fill his spot. It's been cake ever since.

**Why'd you want to be in a band in the first place?**

For me it was a long time to this point. I started listening to punk/hardcore back in 1983 and was a pure spectator for years. Watching bands like Articles of Faith, BGK, Life Sentence, Raw Power [and so on] made me want to play a bigger part in what was going on. I started listening to records by bands like Die Kreuzen and Frites Modern over and over, trying to copy their riffs and started my own crappy bands. Now, 23 years later, I can almost play bass.

**What do you do to promote your band?**

Virtually nothing. Word of mouth mostly, with the occasional homemade flyer or Internet post to back it up.

**Where around Chicago have you played?**

The vast majority of our shows are, and always will be, basement shows. Nothing beats the intimacy and immediacy of having the crowd right in your face, eye level. Around Chicago the best places have been Albion House, Ice Factory and several houses in Pilsen and Little Village. However, the best show as of late would have to be the Conspiracy Fest show in Cleveland this September.

**What was the festival like?**

Never in all my years of going to and playing shows have I seen so much blood, broken glass and blatant disregard for fire codes. The kids are crazy, but a hell of a lot of fun.

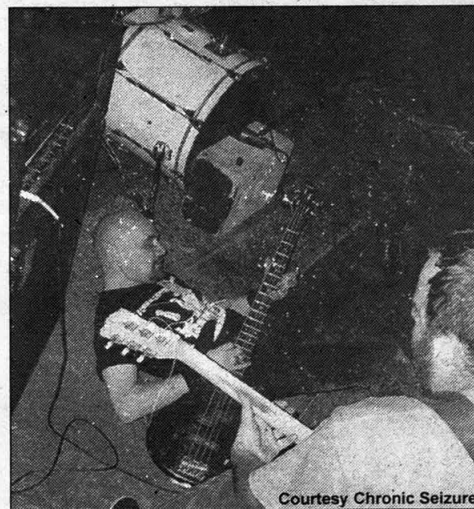
**Why do you rock?**

Well, three-fourths of us are in our mid-to late-30s, have been in a billion bands and have seen and done pretty much anything you'd want to do with the genre. To continue doing this at a level where we're still playing for mostly kids in smoky, beer drenched basements across America you have to love playing just for the sake of it ... and we do. We really do.

**Where will you be in a year from now?**

Touring Europe, a culmination of my adolescent fantasies.

## Chronic Seizure



Courtesy Chronic Seizure

On Chronic Seizure's Myspace page you can find information about upcoming shows. Check out the band before they fulfill Kelly's fantasies and head to the motherland. <http://www.myspace.com/chronicseizure>

—*M. Byrne*



# 'Jesus' save them

Documentary puts born again movement in 'the light'

By Matt Fagerholm/Film Critic

"If you're not with us, then you're with the terrorists."  
—President George W. Bush

Countless tiny fists pump into the sky as a collective roar of exaltation spreads throughout the air. Standing amongst this precocious army is a towering middle-aged

woman, whose impassioned beliefs are as formidable as her build. "This means war!" is the mantra she recites. Is this a Nazi youth rally, you may wonder, or an al-Qaida convention perhaps? The unnerving truth, uncovered by the compelling but underdeveloped documentary *Jesus Camp*, is that

this image is fairly commonplace within the confines of evangelical America. Pastor Becky Fischer's "Kids on Fire" summer camp is the film's focus, which reveals the most important theological movement in contemporary American history.

Since 2001, Fischer has run camps for evangelical youth, with the goal of transforming them into "warriors" for their faith. She admires Islamic radicals, if only for their desire to sacrifice lives for faith, and she believes that people should do the same for Christ.

The kids who attend her camp are a collection of sheltered innocents, so pure in their idealistic views, and yet so blinded by the tunnel vision they've inherited from their parents. Clad in militant face paint, these young campers don't waste any time canoeing. Their daily schedule includes speaking in tongues, clutching plastic fetuses, blessing cardboard cut-outs of George W., and sobbing uncontrollably for their sins.

Yet home life is not much different for these tykes, the majority of whom are home-schooled: These children's parental lessons include dismissing global warming as a lie, while damning "warlocks" like Harry Potter.

Unlike the opinionated opuses of Michael Moore, *Jesus Camp* maintains a refreshing objectivity, devoid of biased narration. *Boys of Baraka* co-directors Heidi Ewing

and Rachel Grady wisely allow their electrifying footage to speak for itself, although it's possible that opposite viewpoints could have different interpretations of the film's events.

Interspersed within the footage is liberal Methodist Mike Papantonio, who warns of the growing extremist threat on left-wing talk radio station, Air America Radio. When he goes mano-a-mano with Fischer on his show at the film's "climax," the film isn't simply depicting a battle of personal viewpoints. It's showcasing the central ideological conflict of our nation, between those championing equal freedom and those fighting to conform the human race into following one belief structure. Needless to say, some viewers will side with Papantonio, and others with Fischer.

As a Catholic, I have recently found similar traces of fundamentalist fanaticism seeping into my own fairly liberalized hometown church. Just a couple years ago, political pamphlets were issued to the congregation. The music during "teen mass" was slowed down—to increase a level of devoutness. Some of my friends began to explain to me how no Muslim could ever be my friend, since the goal of Islam was "to obliterate all non-Muslims from the earth."

These frightening developments were further heightened by this year's grotesque passion play, in which a Roman soldier—after breaking Mel Gibson's record for "longest Jesus flogging"—pointed his cat-o-nine-tails toward an audience of trembling children and belated, "From the youngest to the oldest—you did this!"

I can therefore attest to the fact

that *Jesus Camp* is not a commentary on any particular religion at all, but a study of real-life intolerance that transcends theological and cultural barriers. It also makes the 2004 Christian comedy *Saved!* look like "7th Heaven." Although some scenes will no doubt spark amusement in some viewers, such as the children's dance number to a song with lyrics like "Kickin' It for Christ," the film's core is deadly serious.

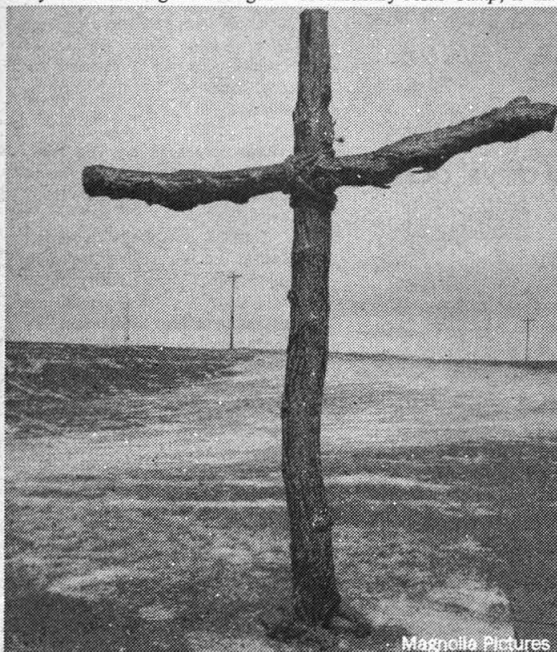
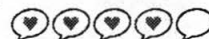
"If the Evangelicals vote, they determine the election," admits Ted Haggard, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, with a childlike smirk.

Fischer's question to her young followers, "are you a part of it or not?" clearly mirrors Bush's black-and-white philosophy of determining friend from foe.

At a mere 85 minutes, *Jesus Camp* doesn't have the time to delve into the lives of its subjects deeply enough, and the filmmakers' refusal to officially "take sides" mutes the film's overall impact. And yet this absence of opinion is also Ewing and Grady's biggest strength, thus allowing their film to become the year's most provocative cinematic conversation-starter. The audience is ultimately left to decide whether the faith of these born-again youngsters has experienced a rebirth or a miscarriage.

chronicle@colum.edu

**'Jesus Camp'**  
Directed by Heidi Ewing  
and Rachel Grady



Magnolia Pictures

A cross stands at the evangelical summer camp "Kids on Fire."

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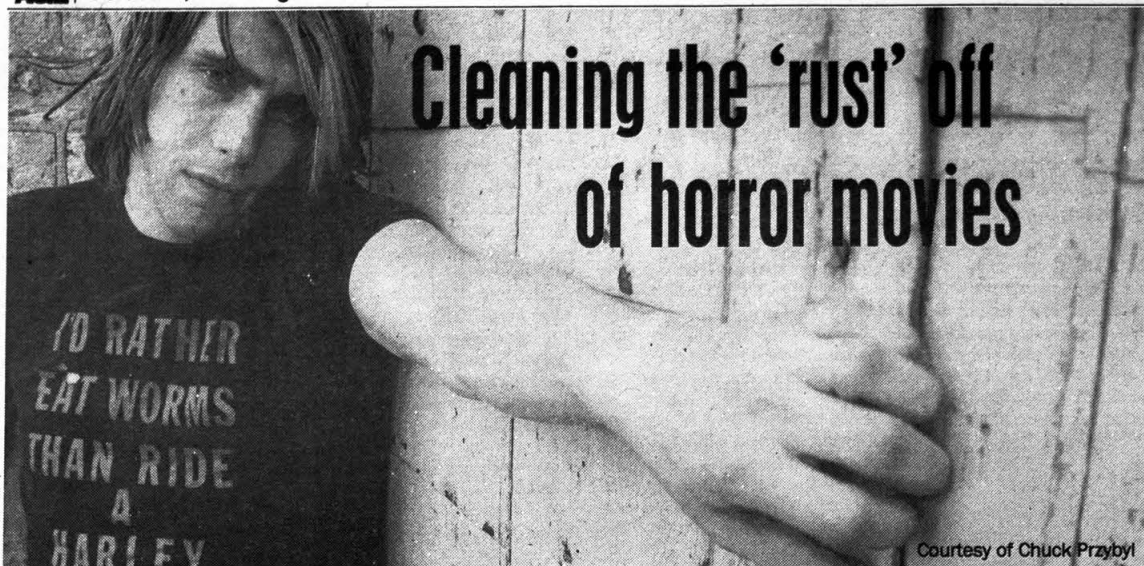
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# Cleaning the 'rust' off of horror movies

Courtesy of Chuck Przybyl

## Massacre mastermind, Rusty Nails, talks about 'the good old days' of horror

By Steve Baltrukonis/Copy Editor

It seems like the only options for wide-release horror nowadays come in the form of pure visual torture (*Hostel*), sequels (*Saw 3*, slated for release Oct. 27), remakes or sequels of remakes, but for those interested in getting into the Halloween spirit by watching a few classic films, the second annual Music Box Massacre 24 hour movie marathon is coming up Oct. 14 through 15.

The man who spearheads the project, Rusty Nails, has been making films and organizing film festivals in Chicago for more than 10 years. He spoke with *The Chronicle* about the Music Box Massacre, his new documentary and "the good old days" of the horror movie.

**The Chronicle:** Tell us about the origins of the Music Box Massacre.

Rusty Nails: The Massacre came out of my love of horror films. The Music Box was also interested in doing a series on horror films, and in Boston, where I grew up, there is this theater called the Coolidge Corner Theatre, and they had a 12 hour horror marathon. I thought it'd be cool to do a 24-hour one. Through all miracles of serendipity, so did The Music Box. And hence it began.

**What have you changed from last year, and what are you keeping on this year?**

Basically, we've included two guests. We've got Joe Dante [director of *Gremlins*, and *The Howling*], who's one of my favorite living American filmmakers, as well as John Hancock, director of *Let's Scare Jessica to Death*. There's going to be a little more music as opposed to the one last year.

**Could you tell me a little more about your recent Romero documentary?**

It's gonna be a feature documentary on George Romero, the director of *Night of the Living Dead*, *Dawn of the Dead*, *Living Dead*, *Creepshow*, *Monkey Shines*, et cetera. It's going to cover his whole life up to date and show George as one of the most interesting, influential filmmakers of the last 40 years, and hopefully I'll be able to do that.

We have Danny Boyle, Stephen King, John Waters,

Penn [Gillette], John Carpenter, John Landis, Richard Linklater, quite a few people have been involved in the project.

**Why did you decide to make a documentary on Romero?**

We're trying to showcase his film odyssey because his journey is the same as many independent filmmakers. That's why I find George so interesting. He's been through so many

The Massacre has had a 3-D movie every year so far. Is there a reason you've stuck to 1950s-era B-movies instead of, say, *Friday the 13th Part 3* or the 3-D *Jaws* sequel?

Yes ... It's because the Music Box Theater doesn't have a silver screen, which is what you need to play color 3-D films. So at the moment we can only play black and white so far as 3-D movies go. We actually wanted

think most of the films we've programmed are in that vein [of "thoughtful" horror movie], like *The Thing*, *Bride of Frankenstein*, *Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* and *Night of the Creeps*. I like to generally steer away from slasher and torture films.

**The only movie on the schedule this year made after 1986 is Joe Dante's short film,**

**MUSIC BOX MASSACRE**  
24-hour horror movie marathon  
October 14th—Sunday 15th  
(noon to noon)

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1919)  
Bride of Frankenstein (1935)  
It Came From Outer Space (1953)  
Masque of the Red Death (1964)  
Piranha (1978)  
Homecoming (2005)  
Q & A with Joe Dante  
Let's Scare Jessica to Death (1971)

Q & A with John Hancock  
The Thing (1982)  
Deep Red (1975)  
Night of the Creeps (1986)  
Zombie (1979)  
Friday the 13th Part 2 (1981)  
An American Werewolf in London (1981)

phases that independent filmmakers go through.

His first film was a big success, but he immediately lost the copyright to it, and so he had financial problems and, I mean, *Night of the Living Dead* cost \$114 thousand and wound up making \$20 million when it first came out. Then he made a few films that didn't go over so well, and he made some bad business deals, lost control of some of his projects ... Then he went on to make Hollywood films and deal with Hollywood studios.

In a way, there's a lot to learn from George [Romero], both good and bad. Just things filmmakers have to be aware of. There's a lot of snakes on the Hollywood plane.

**Are you shooting for a release date?**

When I make films, I try to treat every project more in terms of making the best piece possible, and so I don't rush to finish anything. My goal is to make the best film possible. Given that, however, the 40th anniversary [of *Night of the Living Dead*] is coming up in 2008, and the beginning of the film is set in 1967, so I guess I would like to have it finished either by 2007 or 2008 for synchronicity's sake.

Documentaries can often be a long journey of discovery with the subject, so hopefully it'll be done sooner than later.

to play *Friday the 13th Part 3* ... We'd like to play the original *House of Wax* one day. I like that we're playing *It Came From Outer Space* because it's not a film that's familiar to most audiences today.

**Why do you choose the films you do for the marathon?**

One of my personal interests in doing the Music Box Massacre is presenting interesting, intelligent, funny, fun sort of controversial horror films for the most part. And we have silly gore films in there also, but I

**Homecoming.**

Well, we just announced that we're going to be playing Takashi Miike's *Imprint* which I don't think has ever been screened in America yet. I'd also like to mention that [Miike's *Imprint*] has been banned from cable television. So that's the latest addition.

**Do you think modern horror doesn't hold up to the Dario Argentos and John Carpenters of yesteryear?**

I just saw a fantastic movie at a Toronto film festival that's

called *The Host*. It's a Korean film. I'm not going to say that horror films aren't good now or can't be good now, but in general there's a lack of creativity. A lack of thoughtfulness. A lack of ... of ...

**Originality?**

Yes. A lack of originality. That's a great word ... A lot of films are getting made for this sort of instant gratification. People don't seem to think 'This is going to make money so I'm gonna do it right now, and I'm gonna not worry about the film still being good in ten years.' So yes, unfortunately there's a lack of originality. There's a lack of creativity. A lack of thought. An abundance of torture, unfortunately.

**What directors are you finding most promising so far in carrying the torch of horror? Is Miike?**

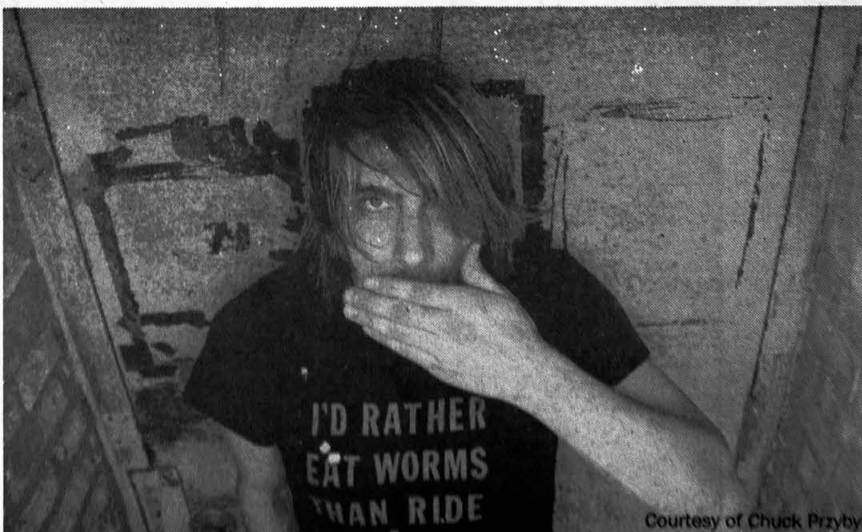
Well, I personally wouldn't say Miike is carrying the torch of horror. I didn't really enjoy *Ichi the Killer*. Don't quote me as being a big Miike fan. It's more that [Imprint] is a movie a lot of people were interested in seeing and I just wanted to be able to present it to them. I don't know, honestly ... I enjoyed *Slither*. That was fun.

**What's the best wide-release horror film you've seen, in the last three years?**

I liked *The Corpse Bride*. Was that a horror movie? I liked *The Host*. It's going to be playing at the Chicago International Film Festival. That's definitely the best horror movie

I've seen in the last three years. And I liked *Donnie Darko*, which people are considering a horror movie; I don't know why. I think that's a good trio. That and *Slither*. Here's a quote for ya: Horror is a very fertile field for great ideas and fun and creativity and commentary on the political and social situations of the day. Not nearly enough filmmakers are grasping that currently.

sbaltrukonis@chroniclemail.com



Courtesy of Chuck Przybyl

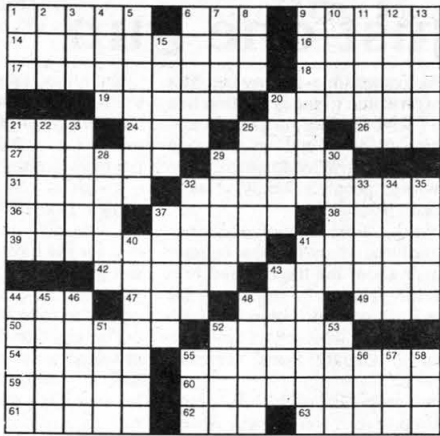
Horror movie connoisseur Rusty Nails brings back marathon for a second spin



## Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 In a vertical line
  - 6 Imitate
  - 9 Actress
  - 14 MacDowell
  - 14 Fonda/Hopper movie
  - 16 Malt beverages
  - 17 Consciousness
  - 18 Coffee shops
  - 19 -Saxon
  - 20 Chant
  - 21 NBC classic
  - 24 Crack team, briefly?
  - 25 Glob ending?
  - 26 Post-dusk
  - 27 Roman emperor
  - 29 Has answers
  - 31 Acknowledges
  - 32 Sail-controlling rope
  - 36 Actress Turner
  - 37 Vanished union boss
  - 38 Earthenware pot
  - 39 Skip school
  - 41 Neighbor of Cuba
  - 42 "Semper Fidelis" composer
  - 43 Oater bar
  - 44 Seventh notes
  - 47 Compass dir.
  - 48 Besmirch
  - 49 Blast letters
  - 50 Games mall
  - 52 Heavens to \_!
  - 54 Sao \_ Brazil
  - 55 Writer P.G.
  - 59 Provide with income
  - 60 Of the skin
  - 61 Standing
  - 62 NASA partner
  - 63 Empire

- DOWN**
- 1 Green shade
  - 2 Jurisprudence
  - 3 NATO member
  - 4 Vidal's \_
  - 5 Breckinridge
  - 5 Vaccaro and Lee
  - 6 Ms. Rogers St.
  - 7 Johns
  - 7 Mexican money
  - 8 Critical-care ctrs.
  - 9 Network report



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10/9/06

### Solutions



- 45 Shiraz resident  
46 Desert Storm missiles  
48 Radio and TV  
51 African plant  
52 Conks on the head  
53 Yesteryear  
55 Teeny  
56 Actress  
57 Pitcher  
58 Shade tree

# TO THE NINES



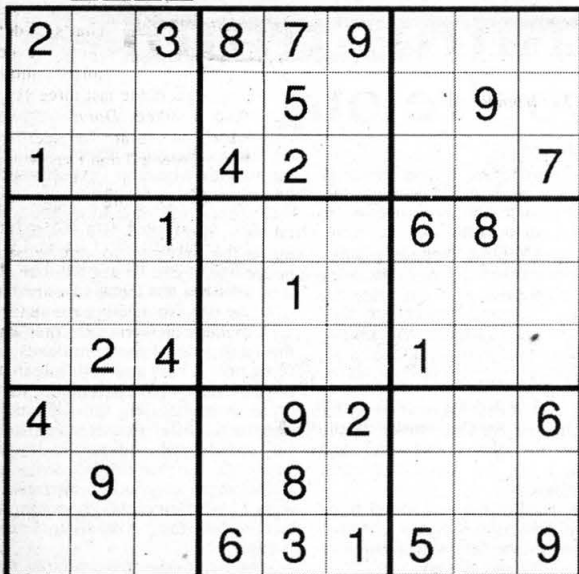
**Alli Schaffnit**, a 20-year-old music business major, is a walking collage of styles. "I tend to throw together lots of different stuff," Schaffnit said. "But I would describe my style as [a] strange mix." Schaffnit, junior at Columbia, said she frequents a lot of thrift stores between her shopping sprees at Forever 21 and Urban Outfitters. "The clothes I wear are very indie and urban," Schaffnit said. "A sort of helter-skelter mix."



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

## Sudoku By Michael Mepham

Level: **1 2 3 4**



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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 3 |

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

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Some carrier charges may apply.

## Horoscopes by Hunter Claus



**Aquarius (Jan. 21—Feb. 19):** Being single is way better. Not only do you not have to pretend you're in love with someone but you can also stay up as late as you want to and have more one-night stands than before.



**Aries (March 21—April 20):** Teen prodigies will not only break your heart but also get you arrested.



**Gemini (May 22—June 21):** Screaming "Why won't you let me love you?" at your neighbor's cat won't get him to stop meowing near your window, but will raise even more questions from your landlord about the dead animals you throw in the trash. Curiosity did indeed kill the cat.



**Leo (July 24—Aug. 23):** Don't flush that toilet! You could make thousands of dollars by sculpting your feces into a religious figure and calling it art. In your face, student loans.



**Libra (Sept. 24—Oct. 23):** Getting into a fight with a magician at the local bar will lead to unwanted attention. Not only will he strangle you as he pulls a never-ending handkerchief from his breast pocket, but he'll make your significant other disappear—in his pants.



**Sagittarius (Nov. 23—Dec. 21):** Having small testicles does not mean your penis looks bigger. It just means you have small testicles. So you should stop bragging to all of your friends about how you have a giant-looking wang.



**Pisces (Feb. 20—March 20):** Also, having a giant and giant-looking wiener are two different things. Didn't you learn anything from the back of the bus during middle school?



**Taurus (April 21—May 21):** Heaven is doing your homework five minutes before class and getting an 'A' on it.



**Taurus (April 21—May 21):** Walking into your next class and proclaiming there's open enrollment in your pants will only lead to an increase of sexual activity with people who don't know what they're doing.



**Cancer (June 22—July 23):** For five minutes you will discover the meaning of true love in a dark alley behind a dumpster.



**Virgo (Aug. 24—Sept. 23):** Due to an ongoing lawsuit, my lawyers have advised me not to give this horoscope.



**Scorpio (Oct. 24—Nov. 22):** You will learn the true meaning of depression when you find out the tutors in the Writing Center get paid \$10 an hour, which is more than you've ever made at the string of shitty part-time jobs you've had. Just remember that next time you're walking to class after folding "ironic" T-shirts at your retail job and pass by an empty Writing Center, 33 E. Congress Parkway.



**Capricorn (Dec. 22—Jan. 20):** The best part about growing a moustache is asking people if they want a moustache ride. Oh yeah.



# All that fun with just one gun



By Cyrril Jakubowski  
Commentary Editor

When I was growing up my heroes consisted of the usual mix of gun-toting individuals ranging from John Wayne—whose real name was Marion, by the way—to Stallone, Schwarzenegger and

Bruce "Yippee" Kaye Willis. They all had guns and they were all badass motor scooters. Granted, they were actors on film, but they sure as hell managed to help in forming my stance on guns.

Now, before I go further, I don't have a problem with guns unless someone is waving one in my face and demanding money or a blowjob a la Kevin Bacon in the film *Sleepers*. I think guns have a place in our society—ya know: for hunting, the shooting range, or heck, even for protection. But over the years, my stance on guns has been changing, partly because of all the crime that is committed with the help of those wonderful contraptions. Let's not kid ourselves; guns are instruments of death if in the wrong hands, i.e. maniacs who go on school killing sprees and/or kids dying from gun accidents.

But don't load that antique musket with gunpowder yet. I believe in live and let live, and if it suits your fancy to carry a weapon for protection or hunting or getting rid of pesky squirrels, then by God it's your right.

However, when it comes to guns, there is a double-standard with all that



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

talk which comes from the National Rifle Association about "law-abiding citizens" being able to carry firearms. It seems to me that the NRA can scream about gun rights all the time, but when someone says something about banning assault weapons it's like we're trying to take away their toys. Perhaps we should be consistent with guns—you don't need Rambo's gun to shoot Bambi.

I never owned a gun, but that doesn't mean that I won't someday try to get one legally and fire off a few high caliber rounds at the range. I hear it's a really empowering experience. Plus, gun stores are rampant in the suburbs.

Yet, the more I think about why people get guns legally, whether for hunting or for protection, one notion seems to crawl out of the societal crevices—guns are essentially tools (and toys) for adults. And as with any "tool" they require knowledge, responsibility and common sense.

To me that's what the NRA is talking

about, the responsible gun owner. But what is worrisome to me is the thin line between "law-abiding citizens" and crazy maniacs who end up shooting children in schools. Why do guns end up in the wrong people's hands? Has it always been like this?

Last week, three school shootings made headlines, throwing the country into despair about the tragedy and brutality of the crimes. In response, this week the Bush administration will hold a conference to address school violence, according to Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino.

I'm not a proponent of the NRA, but I get it. I used to read Hemingway novels and always wanted to go big-game hunting in Africa like Ernie did. But there is a weird obsession with guns in this country, I mean how many guns does one need to bury somewhere in an oil drum? You would think one gun is enough.

The NRA is an organization that, after all, has the Eddie Eagle GunSafe program, which teaches children from pre-K to third grade the steps to take if they find a gun. An eagle mascot, for a small fee of course, makes an appearance and teaches children to: Stop! Don't Touch. Leave the Area and Tell an Adult. I bet McGruff the Crime Dog could kick Eddie Eagle's feathered butt—Crime Dog most likely has a gun.

The NRA website says the program works. Perhaps it does. Perhaps children respond well to an eagle mascot teaching them safety rules when it comes to guns.

But all my jabs at the NRA are meant to illustrate a point. Yes, there is room in our society for guns, whether for protection or for recreational hunting. But let's not blow things out of proportion.

Listen, if you feel that your life is in danger, I am all for owning a gun or two. OK fine, six guns—two for the armpits, two for the hips and two for the ankles. But that's it. If you can't survive with six guns, you're either hunting terminators or you're most likely breaking the law.

The right to bear arms should be a privilege reserved for those who can handle weapons responsibly. But because it is a universal rule, any psycho can get a gun and, as the school shootings showed last week, use it for his malicious deeds. The line between law-abiding citizens and full-out criminals is easy to cross, especially when guns are involved. Even the 32-year-old truck driver Charles Carl Roberts IV who gunned down those children, was a "law-abiding" citizen until he committed murder.

Lets get tough on who actually can have a gun, instead of pontificating about law-abiding citizens having the right to bear arms. Anybody can get a gun, legally or illegally, off the street or through a friend. Perhaps the answer doesn't lie in tighter gun control, but in making sure people who obtain guns should have some training about how to use and care for them. Using gun locks and child safety devices is the first step. Beside, if I do have a child, I'd think about giving up on guns and get a subscription to Guns & Ammo instead.

## Roamin' Numerals

**85** Age of a Toronto woman who said she dreamt of a giant check, which made her buy a second winning lottery ticket for the same drawing according to CBC news. Mary Wollens had two of the three lotto winning tickets—which after a Sept. 30 drawing won her \$16 million. Wollens plans to go to Las Vegas and move to a new home according to the Toronto Star.

**4**

Number of players from the Indiana Pacers involved in an Oct. 6 shooting incident at Club Rio, a Westside Indiana strip club according to Indystar.com. Stephen Jackson, Jamaal Tinsley, Marquis Daniels and Jimmie Hunter had argued with a group of men outside the club and Jackson fired off his 9-mm handgun after someone punched him in the face and sped off in a car.

**68**

Number of bullets that riddled 27-year-old Angilo Freeland's body when nine SWAT members shot him after an all night manhunt on September 28 in Fla. Freeland killed Polk County Deputy Vernon "Matt" Williams and his dog while being pursued by the officer after a routine traffic stop according to The Associated Press.

# One strike and you're out



By Jenn Zimmerman  
Assistant Campus Editor

If you take the number 29 State Street bus, you can get the \$2 tour of what's left of the government-owned housing complexes that once stacked our city's skyline.

I became fairly familiar with that bus while riding to my internship at the Residents' Journal, a South Side newspaper that is written by public housing residents for public housing residents. It didn't take me long to see that although many people who lived in Chicago Housing Authority-owned properties never acted like criminals, the CHA had no problem treating them as such.

In 2000 the CHA created the Plan for Transformation to help rebuild public housing and help decrease much of the crime flourishing around these homes.

Derrick Hill, the CHA's press secretary, said crime is down 14 percent in CHA residences.

Yet, throughout this transformation plan, it seems as though residents are losing more than their homes; their rights are the newest request from the CHA.

One of the housing authority's newest policies requires prospective and current residents to be drug tested annually to comply with lease agreements in certain mixed-income apartments. This stands out as yet another example of innocent people losing their rights as if they were prisoners in a place that our tax dollars helped build.

An annual drug test may make sense. It could help take out the narcotics dealers and abusers shacking up next to the prospective families. But what if they weren't the ones creating crime but rather a family member was or a friend of the family? The CHA seems to think this is enough to shut you out.

Following two Supreme Court cases, *Virginia v. Hicks* and *HUD v. Rucker*, a new policy labeled One Strike was enacted. This is another guideline residents are forced to comply with in signing their applications and lease agreements.

According to One Strike, if you, anyone in your family or even a friend of the family is arrested, accused or convicted of a crime, it is reason enough for you to be evicted from your home.

Mary Johns, editor-in-chief at the Residents' Journal, is a current resident of a CHA-owned property who first acquainted me with this ridiculous

excuse for a policy.

According to Johns, if you currently live in CHA-owned building, any accusation of criminal activity is enough to be evicted from your home.

"There is no public demand on this craziness even from CHA property leaders," Johns said.

Stephanie Horton, lawyer for One Strike for the CHA, said when a person accused of a crime is found guilty, they, along with everyone else in their home, are evicted.

But Hill added that there is hope for families affected by One Strike. If the criminal is not the leaseholder and chooses to leave the home, the other residents can stay.

In other words, this newfound hope gives residents two options through One Strike: break up your family or find somewhere else to stay.

First off, maybe this loophole is great for some residents, but I find it hard to believe that most families would have no problem kicking their son or daughter out because of one crime they have committed. There is a reason there is a saying "three strikes and you're out," isn't there?

And even more so, aren't a majority of people turning to the CHA because they have no other place to go? I'm sure

the diminishing quality of public housing wouldn't be their first option if they had other places to turn to.

It seems only fair to assume that as much as the CHA claims public housing is the first step to getting people a better life, it can be argued that it's one step up from the Cook County Jail and in some ways it's just the same.

Both have screens plastered against the front side of the complexes resembling prison bars and both scream out in need of basic upkeep, with the stench of urine overwhelming the staircases. Yet one large difference remains between the county jail and public housing—many of its current residents are as innocent as any other citizens. They didn't lose their rights by committing a crime, but they lost their family or home.

Johns said she feels almost trapped into agreeing with these policies while signing her lease.

"You sign all these documents to where you have no choice," Johns said.

As the wrecking ball swings, residents are faced with these new policies that question what exactly being poor means in our society. Clearly, to the CHA, it means you leave your rights on the doorstep to your new home, or you leave your family behind.

## THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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# Editorials

## Drugs are bad, mmkay

Comedian Denis Leary used to have short spots on MTV in the '90s that featured his acidic rants and raves. In one short he appeared on television and said "One word: drugs."

So in true Leary style, one word comes to mind when addressing the University Center of Chicago: drugs.

Last week's story in The Chronicle about prescription drug abuse moving into dorms raised certain questions about the University Center's policies on drugs and other vices.

Various accounts suggest that the UC is a drug emporium where students can shop till they drop for whatever they fancy. Even though there are policies regarding drugs and alcohol, one of the nation's largest dormitories needs to do more to police an environment that should mainly be used for studying and sleeping. Granted, this doesn't mean administrators should infringe on students' privacy, but they should play a part in providing a safe and drug free environment.

But in the annals of history of higher education the truth is that students move into the dorms first, while drugs and alcohol abuse is usually there as the serpents that slither through the world of academia on a constant basis.

The Office of Safety and Security released last year's crime statistics and the results from the

Student Residence Center are interesting. In 2003 there were only 29 reported cases of liquor violations. In two years that number jumped to 324. It seems the Residence Center is at least taking its policies seriously. However, more needs to be done to create a better learning environment. Perhaps RAs should serve as counselors and not traffic cops and get to know students better.

As reported by The Chronicle, prescription drugs such as Adderall and Ritalin are easily available in the dorms because students are selling their prescriptions to anyone who wants a fix. With their newfound freedom away from home, it's nothing new that students will likely engage in risque behaviors ranging from drinking to substance abuse. It's a cause for concern when students readily admit to using prescription drugs.

"I'll take Adderall for two days and then take NyQuil to kill it off," freshman Jessica Ruska told The Chronicle last week. "A lot of kids here abuse it."

All our lives we've been taught that "drugs are bad." But if students think that moving away from classic drugs such as cocaine, heroin and marijuana to legal prescription drug abuse is somehow justified, they are dead wrong.

Most students are stressed out about school work. But it seems that

while burning the midnight oil, students have replaced coffee binges, with amphetamine infused study sessions. This might be a step backward.

Those who have tried Adderall swear by its effectiveness. But what does that say about student life here at Columbia when one needs to resort to drug abuse to make it through school? Perhaps better time management is the answer and not legal speed. On a long enough timeline, using Adderall to get through finals is a trap which can lead back full circle to regular drug abuse.

Of course, there is no way of enforcing substance abuse completely, but the UC should remain vigilant and crack down on such instances. This, of course, is a problem that will not go away, but more steps should be taken to help minimize this.

Substance abuse is a serious problem, and Columbia offers numerous organizations that help promote drug-free interaction with students. Many counseling services are available to students if they feel they might have a problem.

Students make mistakes, but hopefully they can learn from them and realize that prescription drug abuse isn't the answer. Meeting new friends, utilizing what Columbia has to offer and making the best of a positive college experience, however, is.

## Game major not all fun and games

In his first movie appearance in *Back to the Future: Part 2*, Elijah Wood asked, "You mean you have to use your hands?" in response to Marty's overt fascination with the Wild Gunman arcade. In a nutshell, that's the future of video games, especially if one's calling is to design them for the highly competitive and lucrative gaming industry.

Like a bug-ridden version of Windows 95, Columbia's new game design major is also starting to show some bugs. While the program is in its infancy, some students have raised concerns about its execution.

Video games are embedded in our society like an Alabama tick. Games are not child's play anymore, but a big part of young adults and grown ups lives. The \$7 billion gaming industry is also one of the reasons why many people are thinking about entering this field in order to make games and

not play them.

Columbia aims to create—art, film and writing, both fiction and nonfiction—and the major does concentrate on that. The game design's curriculum balances creativity, storytelling and technology within concentrations like game development, programming and animation and audio.

It's all a lofty goal, to be sure. But the program also needs to stress the idea that a simple degree in game design from Columbia might not be worth much if the students don't have a strong videogame demo that equals whatever is being introduced into the market. While a Columbia senior year project involves making a game, students need to escape conventions and create games that weren't done before.

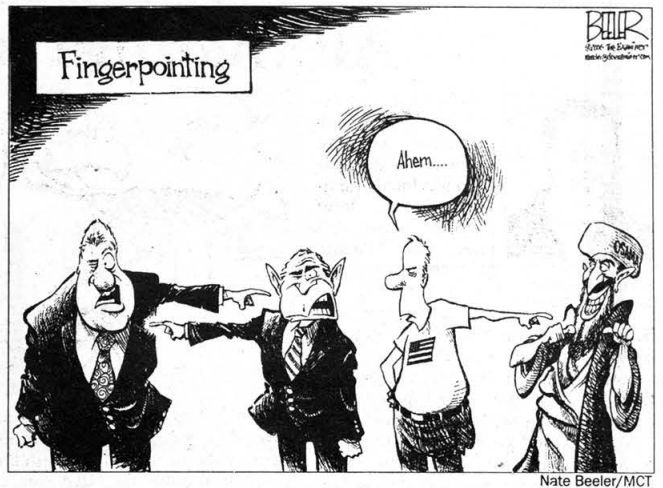
Students need to be challenged to tread on new ground and not follow formula—this chal-

lenge should be up to par with whatever engineering students are doing in other schools.

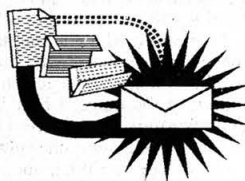
While the curriculum is based in theory, an internship with a video game company is helpful, according to industry sources. There is also a load of physics, linear and discrete math that is required in the program, but we think students interested in majoring in game design should realize that it is a difficult field and only serious applicants should even try.

While some students raised concerns that the program is too demanding and that it needs to be more basic at the beginning, it's too early to judge a program that on paper is a good idea. Besides, if one is having trouble in introductory classes of game design, perhaps that is not their cup of tea. As with any medium, hard work is necessary to create anything of quality.

## Back from the Drawing Boards



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



Cry, cry, cry

In response to the article entitled "Rye bread monologues," I was prompted to write a response to some of the claims made by Jim Jaworski.

First of all, the "infectious disease of politics" Jaworski refers to is, quite simply, a byproduct of the liberal media we are subjected to. The media has turned politics into a game show that many of us watch with as much adoration as 18-year-old girls watch American Idol. This particular viewpoint is further enhanced by the fact that politicians no longer focus on a current message but rely on playing retroactive politics instead. Mr. Jaworski, rather effortlessly, does the same thing in his article.

It's time for politicians to stop blaming each other for the current state of world affairs and own up to the fact that they are the ones who created the drama(s) in the first place. Clinton could have got Bin Laden, and as he illustrated during his interview with Chris Wallace on Fox News, he surely wanted to. What is interesting about that interview is that the former President went on to describe the exact times he could have killed Bin Laden. My question is why didn't he?

If Clinton was afraid of seeing the inside of The Hague then by God what was he doing being the leader of the world's last superpower in the first place? The claim that the Departments of National Security, State, and Defense as well as the CIA and FBI were unaware of the severity of Bin Laden's influence are a

wonderful example of the retroactive politics that are being played out to stir the pot and cause Mr. Jaworski's "infectious disease."

People will continue to bicker as to whom has the better idea, bottom line. But to use excuses such as "Republicans made it too hard to afford college tuition" and "I actually had to work because my credit was bad and the Federal Government didn't give me enough financial aid" is pure cowardice and falls under the retroactive political idea of entitlement.

Nothing that Clinton did, or any other President for that matter, could have prevented what happened to our country.

Clinton could have killed Bin Laden, but that is surely not a guarantee that we would not have been attacked. It was a matter of time and frankly, it is tiring to listen to the same old "he said, she said" amongst America's two dominant political parties.

Take responsibility for what you have to do. If it means getting a co-signer to come to Columbia College because FAFSA didn't give you enough money, then do it. Or, like Mr. Jaworski, you can own up and get a job. Columbia's tuition falls just below the national average anyway, so if you want to go to school, stop retroactively blaming parents, Republicans and Democrats, mean guidance counselors, tax systems or ex-Presidents simply because you are too complacent with complaining about how the "people who run the free world are no more mature than a couple of bozos who work at a bread factory."

God forbid you wanted to go to medical or law school and realized the cost is anywhere between \$70,000-\$150,000. Who can we retroactively blame for that, I wonder?

—Timothy Baker  
Senior, Public Relations

**Have an opinion** about something you read on these pages? Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or believe strongly about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?

Why not write a Letter to the Editor? At the bottom of Page 31 you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you.

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

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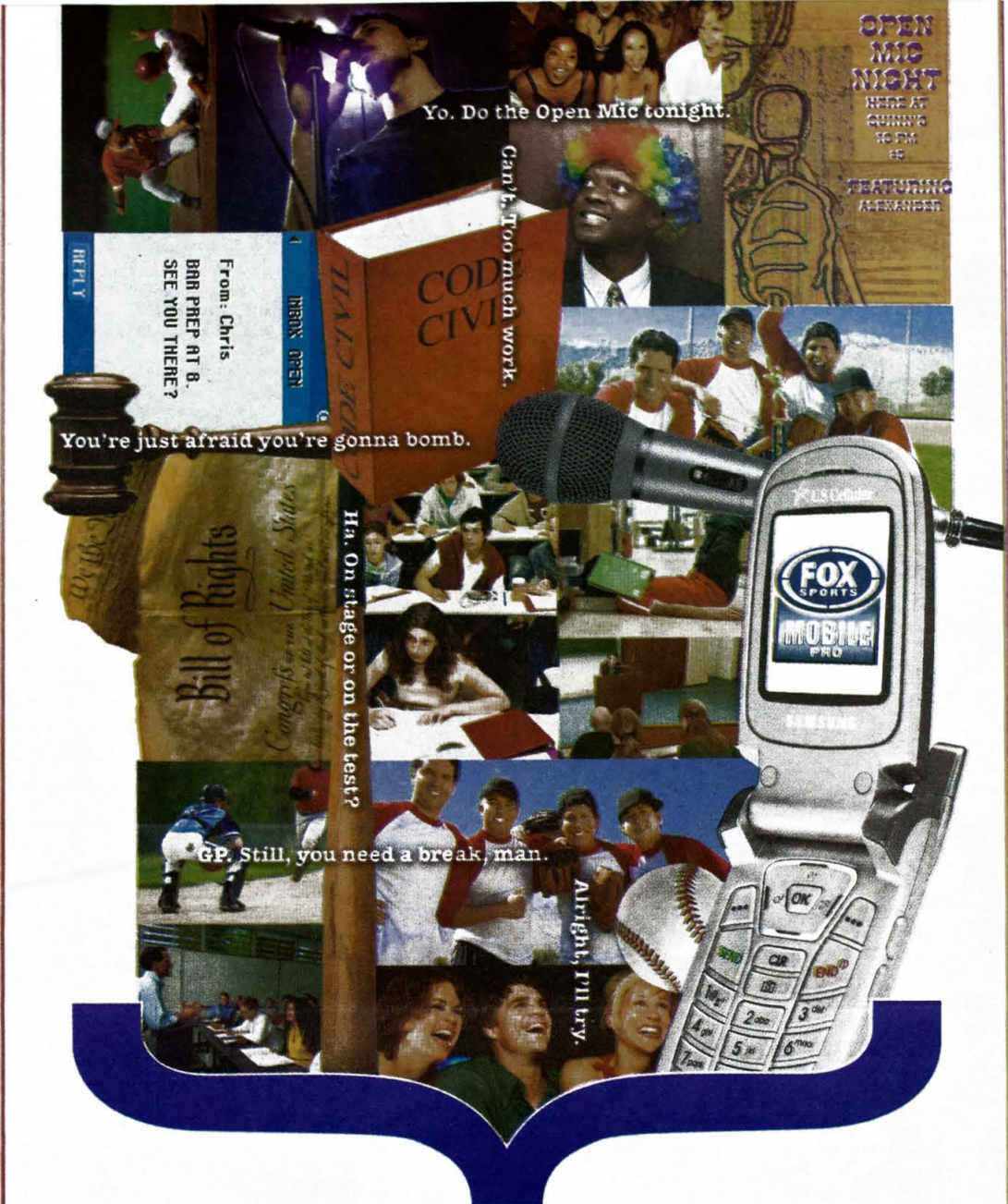
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Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Pedestrians linger near the corner of Grove Street and Sherman Avenue in the middle of downtown Evanston's shopping area.

## Urban Excursions: Evanston

By Jenifer K. Fischer  
Managing Editor

Believe it or not, the CTA travels north of Howard. Beyond the Red Line, off of the Purple, lies Evanston. Though not particularly urban, it's not all that suburban either. As a matter of fact, it's quite a charming community—a little less crowded than Chicago. But Evanston's got far more character than your stereotypical suburban sea of big box stores and strip malls. And during the school year, it's packed with college students.

Historic mansions, tree-lined streets, lakeside parks and stately brick downtown buildings comprise the home of Northwestern University. In addition to scenic surroundings, Evanston overflows with fantastic restaurants and pubs.

Dave's Italian Kitchen, 1635 Chicago Ave., is my personal favorite. This low-key Italian dining delight resides in a basement, of all places. Its signature-laden wine bottles and eclectic art collection line the dining room, which is packed almost any night of the week. Dave dishes up inexpensive but tasty Italian specialties like baked spaghetti, veal parmesan and spaghetti carbonara, as well as delicious thin-crust pizzas and, for those of age, an expansive wine list with selections to fit all budgets.

Another Evanston staple is Buffalo Joe's, 812 Clark St. It serves the best chicken wings in the city, hands down—and fabulous cheese fries to boot. This is a great place for dining on the cheap.

For the 21-and-older crowd, Celtic Knot, 626 Church St., provides a cozy nook for dinner, drinks or Sunday jazz brunch. The food is a little more expensive, but the atmosphere is chill and welcoming like any other neighborhood bar; Celtic Knot boasts charming stone walls,

frequent live Irish music, dart boards and televisions that provide a nice spot for taking in a game.

Joy Yee's Noodles, 521 Davis St., is a great date spot. It touts itself as the first to offer Taiwanese bubble tea in the Midwest. In addition its menu includes a wealth of fresh smoothie flavors and a wide assortment of Asian dishes like lemongrass chicken, Korean BBQ beef and Buddhist delight.

Evanston's newer shopping district beholds such twenty-something favorites as Urban Outfitters, 921 Church St. and American Apparel, 950 Church St. Francesca's Collections, 1706 Maple Ave., is a chain boutique that offers up a roomful of sparkling accessories and one-of-a-kind clothes. Century 12 and Century CineArts 6, 1715 Maple Ave., always provide a host of mainstream and more obscure movies. They offer student discounts—as many places in Evanston do—and matinee prices.

Don't leave Evanston without visiting Bookman's Alley, 1712 Sherman Ave. Literally in the alley, this is by far the best little used bookstore in Chicagoland. It demands its own trip to Evanston. The shop's several rooms are crammed floor-to-ceiling with literary treasures both common and rare. With antique furnishings and dim lighting, you feel like you're searching through grandma's attic.

This is only a sampling of what lies to the north of Roger's Park. Take the Purple Line and get off at Davis to visit the central downtown district mentioned above. There's plenty more to be seen off of the other stops ... but that's another trip all together.

[jfischer@chroniclemail.com](mailto:jfischer@chroniclemail.com)

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Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

The Unicorn Cafe, 1723 Sherman Ave., is a popular location with students and faculty from Northwestern University's campus.



## Immigration: Cook County Board divided on sanctuary measure

*Continued from Back Page*

trying to enter a Mexican restaurant on Chicago's South Side.

Not everyone agreed that the County Board should handle such immigration issues. Tony Peraica, who represents Chicago's near west suburbs, spoke about why he opposed the resolution.

"The County Board of Commissioners does not have the jurisdiction to deal with the questions and issues that under the federal constitution of the United States are reserved solely to the United States Congress," Peraica said.

Peraica, an immigrant who's running as the Republican candidate for Cook County Board President, said he sympathized with the immigrants' plight but the board was not the place to handle immigration reform.

Peraica also noted that the resolution would "create a false sense of hope; a false sense of security" by deeming Cook County a sanctuary county.

Cook County is not the only local government engaging in localized immigration reform. Since August 2006, 33 states endorsed 78 bills pertaining to immigration, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan group that provides research and support for state governments.

The NCSL noted in its tally that state legislators have introduced nearly 550 resolutions this year, although many are still pending while some have been vetoed. Some of the resolutions' main topics included employment, public benefits and human trafficking.

Along with state and county legislators, towns like Sandwich, Mass., have tried to craft legislation doing the opposite of Cook County. Doug Dexter, a Sandwich town official said the town recently deemed itself symbolically "not a sanctuary for illegal immigrants." He also said Sandwich has no problem with documented workers.

"We're not against immigrants," Dexter said. "We're not against the guest workers coming here."

He explained that many temporary workers on 180-day work visas travel from areas like Africa and Europe to work during the summer. Most of them leave before their visas expire.

Dexter said the problem arose when the town officials tried to pass an ordinance that would revoke the license of a business employing undocumented workers. He said certain businesses undercut other ones by hiring undocumented workers for less pay. He also said that this cheap labor affected the job market for the town's guest workers too.

During the town meeting, though, Dexter noted that local churches protested the proposal.

"The whole thing got confused with a human rights issue," Dexter said. "It's a legal issue."

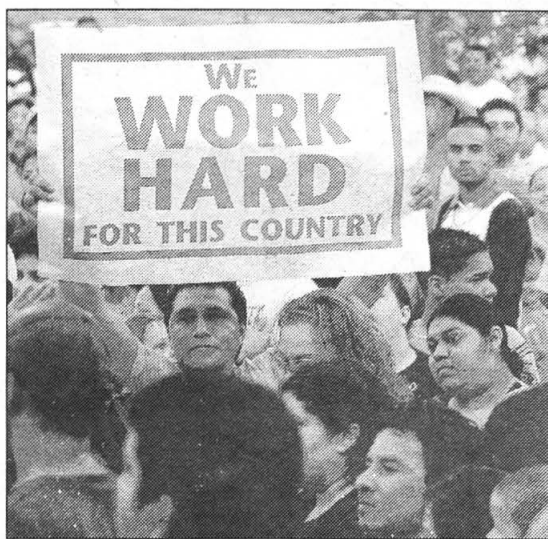
In a town hall government, any registered voter attending a meet-

ing has the right to vote on a resolution. Dexter said about 1,000 people showed up out of Sandwich's 14,000 registered voters; town officials tabled the measure because about 600 to 700 attendees would have voted against it.

However, Dexter said the tabled proposal may not matter if the U.S. Senate approves bill H.R. 6095. This bill, along with H.R. 6094, which allows the indefinite detention of immigrants, and H.R. 6061, which authorizes a 700-mile border fence, would give local and state governments more force to handle undocumented workers with. While Congress approved H.R. 6061 to build a 700-mile, double-layered fence along the California-Arizona and Mexican border on Sept. 29, the H.R. 6094 and 6095 bills are still pending in the U.S. Senate. Currently, Congress is in recess for the Nov. 7 midterm elections.

If H.R. 6061 sounds familiar, it's because the bill echoes U.S. Rep. James Sensenbrenner's (R-Wis.) failed H.R. 4437 bill that authorized criminal sanctions against undocumented workers and building a fence along the U.S.-Mexican border. This bill served as a catalyst for the hundreds of thousands of people who marched earlier this year in major cities, including Chicago, demanding rights for undocumented immigrants as well as some type of reform.

Currently, 10.3 million unauthorized people reside in the United States, according to a study released in 2005 by the Pew Hispanic Center, a nonpartisan research organization. However,



AP

A crowd gathers near Carpentersville Village Hall, in suburban Carpentersville, to protest an immigration proposal that was scheduled to be debated on Oct. 3. The village board postponed the meeting so officials could locate a bigger venue to discuss the resolution.

this number reflects 29 percent of the 35.7 million foreign-born persons living in the United States.

For Jack Martin, special projects director for the Federation for Immigration Reform, a non-profit organization that pushes for tighter immigration laws, it's not reform that has people divided.

"Public opinion polling indicate that a large percentage of the public [want immigration reform]," Martin said. "There's more of a divisive [sentiment] on what needs to be done with the illegal people already here."

Still, while Cook County residents' sentiments are split on

immigration, Cook County Commissioner Maldonado explained the message he was trying to convey with his sanctuary county resolution.

"[This nonbinding resolution] is not intended and nor do we have the power to circumvent the federal government," Maldonado said. "By adopting this resolution it will be just sending a moral message to the undocumented that reside in our town that we support their plight."

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## Kalven: Courts challenging reporters' privilege

Continued from Back Page

than several buildings on the eve of destruction. For him, it was a place where he already had numerous ties and connections, and it was also where he and a colleague would eventually set up a website called viewfromtheground.com.

The site would serve as a blog to report and document stories on the condition of public housing in Chicago. Frustrated by mainstream press coverage of the issue, Kalven sought to immerse himself in the community and report from the ground up, a technique rarely used in conventional journalism.

"What we did instead of criticizing the coverage of public housing by the press, we did primary reporting," Kalven said. "Nobody expects this sort of stuff to come out of a place like Stateway, and the internet allows a kind of strategic access to decision makers."

The website would not only become Kalven's vehicle for exposing what he calls severe and serious human rights violations, but the source of his and his subjects' ongoing legal battles.

The basis for the controversy, however, doesn't have as much to do with the allegations of police misconduct, but Kalven's rather complex motives and his claim that handing over his notes would severely hamper his ability to do the type of embedded work he does.

"We don't consider this to be a reporter's privilege case," said Jennifer Hoyle, spokeswoman for the City of Chicago's Law Department. "Jamie Kalven is listed as a witness for Diane Bond, he is not acting in this respect as a reporter, that's the whole point of our subpoena. He has become intimately involved with this case beyond what you would normally see from a reporter."

Hoyle said the city is pursuing his notes just as they would those of any other witness that has information pertinent to a case. Although Kalven has already delivered a four hour deposition to the city, Hoyle said he has not completely cooperated.

"We think it's relevant, to the extent that he has information regarding statements made by other witnesses that may not be consistent with what they are now saying," Hoyle said.

The city is now appealing a ruling by Magistrate Judge Arlander Keys that the subpoena, was too broad. Because of Keys' decision,

**During 2002 to 2004 citizens filed 10,150 complaints of excessive force. 18 were followed through with a suspension longer than 7 days. 99.8% were not followed through**

|                                |       |    |
|--------------------------------|-------|----|
| Complaints of illegal arrest   | 661   | 0  |
| Complaints of illegal searches | 3,837 | 1  |
| Complaints of excessive force  | 5,358 | 15 |

Suspended longer than 7 days

**In the last 5 years, 662 officers had 10 or more complaints — 5% of police force**

From 2002 to 2004 the city investigated 18,077 allegations of misconduct, of those complaints 7,864 name the 662 repeat offenders.

Information obtained through documents made available by the Chicago Police Department during court proceedings

Kalven has not had to formally claim reporters' privilege, a legal maneuver that asserts the press' right to gather information freely under the 1st Amendment.

If Kalven does, however, he may have difficulties due to an opinion three years ago by U.S. 7th Circuit Court Judge Richard Posner that virtually eliminated any rights granted to reporters in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana.

### Reporters Privilege

Posner's opinion originated from a case involving Sun-Times reporter Abdon Pallasch.

Pallasch and other reporters were interviewing, for a book, an FBI mole who had successfully infiltrated the Irish Republican Army, a terrorist group. The mole was a key witness for Irish prosecutors charging the group's leader, Mickey McKevitt. On the eve of the trial, McKevitt's attorneys heard about the book and interviews Pallasch had conducted and filed suit in the U.S. 7th Circuit court to obtain notes and recordings of interviews.

Pallasch said he was ready to go to prison for not giving up his materials. But when his lawyers told him that by refusing the order, Judge Richard Posner would write an opinion that could later be used against him and other reporters, Pallasch gave up the notes and recordings.

"We think it's over, the worst is done, we short-circuited the whole process so there's not going to be any opinion that comes out because the case is over," Pallasch remembered thinking. "Much to our shock and horror chagrin, two months later, from out of nowhere, Posner issues this opinion without any benefit of briefs or oral arguments."

Posner's opinion eradicated any protection journalists have to not

reveal sources or provide information in the federal 7th Circuit. Now Pallasch said the opinion is being used by cities and governments to club journalists into testifying and revealing sources.

"They figure their role as zealous advocates is just to try any tool they've got, and now here's a

**"... He is not acting in this respect as a reporter, that's the whole point of our subpoena. He has become intimately involved with this case beyond what you would normally see from a reporter."**

—Jennifer Hoyle, spokeswoman for the Chicago Department of Law

new tool they can use," Pallasch said. "If it goes into federal court, it's open season and sure, why not try to get everything they can from the journalists, which is kind of sad."

Although no one can speculate on the city's motives for pursuing Kalven's notes, Kalven and others believe it may have to do with the fact that he is an independent journalist with a self-professed "human rights activist" title.

Lucy Dalglish, executive director for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, based in Arlington, Va., said Kalven's multiple roles as reporter, journalist and witness, akin to that of a citizen journalist, make it complicated to determine his intentions for writing the stories in question.

Dalglish mentioned independent journalist Josh Wolf, who is currently in jail for refusing to hand over footage of a protest he shot where demonstrators attempted to set a San Francisco police car on fire. She said the circumstances regarding Wolf and

Kalven's cases are similar because there are questions surrounding their intentions at the time of their respective events.

"One of the reasons a reporter's privilege is conveyed by many courts is to protect the independence of the media ability to gather and report news," Dalglish said. "If you have someone there who is clearly on one side or the other, the need to protect the independence of the media is obviously not as great."

Legal battles like the one Pallasch faced and Kalven is currently facing may play part in what Kalven calls "the self-censorship of the mainstream press." He said when viewfromtheground.com began, his intention was to report on topics like public housing and police misconduct that are often covered in a traditional way that prevents the stories from being effective. When starting the site, Kalven said the distribution list was carefully created to have it sent out to many top officials and community organizations throughout the city to directly point out problems to the right people.

"Most of the reporting on police misconduct cases is essentially reporting on trails, and that's a particular type of reporting," Kalven said. "This is reporting that's coming from the ground, it's coming from the actual setting that the alleged abuses took place. It's an area where the institutional press, the dailies, has really failed to cover."

### Citizen Journalism

Richard Roth, associate dean at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University said mounting legal struggles over information and sources shouldn't deter journalists from reporting on stories they might run into trouble

Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle for.

"There's no reason to worry about subpoenas and getting sued—let the lawyers worry about that," Roth said. "If you're a journalist, go do the job... I don't think it's a question of self-censorship, I think it's a question of lazy reporting or alternatively paying attention to the wrong stuff."

Roth, who is also the Society of Professional Journalists director of region 5, which encompasses much of the Northern Midwest, said there's nothing wrong with Kalven's type of reporting—it is similar to citizen journalism, but often can blur the news-gathering line.

"There's a difference when there are these other people who want to wrap themselves in the skirts of journalism being reporters and they're writing for themselves," Roth said.

Despite the criticism Kalven has received for what some call biased reporting, he continues to believe it's possible to care passionately about human rights, your city and your neighborhood, while still being a rigorous journalist. He said the readers can judge for themselves the integrity of the reporting.

"I am someone who is trying to combat what I regard as serious human rights violations by various means," Kalven said. "I don't think the journalism is impeached by the fact I have these other roles. You have to read it and judge it, challenge it and look for soft spots like you would any other reporting."

Kalven has been invited to speak about his story at Columbia Tuesday Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. in room 219 of the 33 E. Congress Pkwy. building.

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## Symphony: Audience mixed on contributing to classical music

Continued from Back Page

"I think I hear enough of cell phones every day other than coming to a concert to hear cell phones," White said.

Prior to the concert, Freeman

told audience members the idea for such a piece originated while he was in an airport in Prague. He said he noticed passengers all around him making final phone calls before boarding the plane and realized the "miracle" of this modern technology.

"[Maestro Freeman] saw all these different people on cell phones and kind of how intrusive it was, but also [saw] in a way how it connects people to each other," Hirsch said.

Freeman collaborated with Baker on the idea, who finished

writing "Concertino for Cellular Phones and Symphony Orchestra" about a month ago, Hirsch said.

Attendee Erin O'Keefe agreed that the originality of the performance correlated well with the way cell phones have evolved in our society.

"I do think that it is relevant to our time—the mixing of something that's classical and a foundation of our society, plus something [like cell phones] that we all use," O'Keefe said.

According to Hirsch, the Sinfonietta's mission is to try to

broaden perceptions of how classical music should be performed. The group often tries to incorporate diverse additions to their performances, like playing with a steel drum ensemble or adding visual aids to concerts.

"[An orchestra] becomes classical at the point that it plays repertoire that came out of classical music," Hirsch said, "but the instruments are capable of playing really anything, aren't they? Part of our mission is to ... stretch the boundaries of how people perceive classical music by doing pieces very

much like [this one]."

Hirsch said this evolution of mixing classical and modern entities might help break the stereotype of what an orchestra really can do.

"There's a lot of things like [this] that are going on in the orchestral world that are all a part of the process of transforming the orchestra from its museum-like 19th century quality into a much more dynamic, relevant performing ensemble," Hirsch said.

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# A call for living wages

## Hull House hosts dinner and discussion of sustainable income

By Katie Chor  
Staff Writer

Despite Mayor Daley's recent veto of the big box ordinance, the debate about living wage standards is still simmering within some organizations.

At a recent gathering at Grace Place, 637 S. Dearborn St., the Jane Addams Hull House Association, an organization that upholds Addams' memory and promotes social welfare, hosted a Dinners Dialogue Project—part of an ongoing social issue discussion series that explores racism and classism—to talk about living wages.

Jack Metzgar, professor emeritus of humanities at Roosevelt University, spoke briefly to the crowded room about what it takes for a three-person household to make a decent living in Chicago.

He pointed to the 2005 Census and a study conducted by Wider Opportunities for Women, an advocacy group for women workers, which stated it would take almost \$13,000 more to be self-sufficient in Chicago as opposed to the average amount in the United States. In 2005, a three-person household in the United States was living in poverty if the combined income was no more than \$15,577.

Although the minimum wage in Illinois is \$6.50 per hour, higher than the federal minimum wage of \$5.15, it still falls below the poverty line. A three-person household in Illinois would only make \$12,000 a year working for minimum wage.

"The poverty level is nowhere close to a living wage," Metzgar said. "Low wage work is a problem, and it is going to get worse."

Attendees discussed fair wages, health benefits and the

**"This is not a decision about Wal-Mart. This is about people. This conversation should not stop here tonight."**

—Clarence Wood, President of the Jane Addams Hull House Association

lives of low-income workers.

Judith Armstead, a retired professor from Malcolm X College, said during her years of teaching, she discovered that students received more money in aid from the government when they did not work than if they worked full time at a minimum-wage job.

Armstead also said it is especially hard for single mothers to afford day care.

"You really can't afford to work," she said. "You go on welfare to stay home and take care of the kids."

Gene Horcher, board member of Jane Addams Senior Caucus, a part of the association that deals with senior citizens' issues, said the lowest paying job should have a decent wage.

The proposed solutions were complicated. Many people supported the big box ordinance Mayor Daley recently vetoed which would have given employees of Wal-Mart and other businesses that have at least 90,000 square feet of space \$10 an hour plus benefits.

But a few attendees questioned whether the ordinance would benefit the community. Some feared that Chicago would lose jobs if big box companies like Wal-Mart and Target opened stores outside the city's borders.

Spokespersons from each table expressed where they would like to see the Hull House on the debate and what action should be taken.

Many people wanted to see the Hull House partnering with other advocacy groups to help get the big box ordinance passed at a state level. Attendees supported the idea of more meetings and public awareness efforts for the issue.

"You have to unite if you're really going to get something done," Horcher said, also bringing up the importance of women getting involved. "If women don't take action, forget it. Our seniors are two-thirds women."

Some expressed that this is



Keith Bishton/The Chronicle

Jack Metzgar, professor emeritus of humanities at Roosevelt University, speaks about living wages during the Chicago Dinners Dialogue Project Sept. 28 at Grace Place, 637 N. Dearborn St.

not an issue stemming from minimum wage, but from minimum education. They said they felt Chicago should put more money in the school system. Armstead said there needs to be more skilled workers.

Clarence Wood, president of Jane Addams Hull House Association, closed the evening with inspiring words for change.

"This is not a decision about Wal-Mart," he said. "This is about people. This conversation should not stop here tonight."

Wood said in a transforming city like Chicago, public policy and social issues are an ongoing process.

"Your alderman is not here; your city officials are not here because they didn't believe you'd be here," Wood said. "You're here."

For more information about the Dinners Dialogue Project and other upcoming events, visit [hullhouse.org](http://hullhouse.org).

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# Rollin' down the Cal-Sag

## Proposed multi-use trail to run along South Side river

By Matt Woronko  
Staff Writer

Snaking between many southern communities like Robbins and Palos Park, the Calumet-Sag Channel has been overlooked as a spot for the growth of businesses and homes. But different organizations, including bike and rowboat groups, have begun to look at the river as an untapped resource.

One group is the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, which is pushing for a 24-mile trail following the channel. The project would go from the I&M Canal Trail in southwest suburban Lemont to the Burnham Greenway near the Indiana border.

The trail would be built by 2010 and cost somewhere close to \$18 million. Steve Buchtel, southland coordinator for the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, said it could be a good source of money for the community.

"The trail will act as a link between towns," Buchtel said. "What's nice about it is that as

the channel winds through the different neighborhoods, it either goes next to, or through, economic areas."

The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, founded in 1985, is dedicated to integrating bicycles as a bigger part of everyday life. The organization has more than 5,000 members and has helped create more than \$100 million worth of bike-related projects. Buchtel said originally the areas around the channel were home to many steel plants and were focused primarily on industry.

"Especially along the Calumet, companies only looked at profit," Buchtel said. "And now since many of them have closed, or are suffering, what they've left behind is a travesty."

Buchtel said having a trail going through areas of significant economic activity is important. He also said it's not just the money that potential businesses along the river are focused on, but also attracting employees and recreational activities.

The Chicago Rowing Center is feeling optimistic about recreational opportunities. Michael O'Gorman, head coach for the center, said the Calumet-Sag Channel would allow people to

take an interest in rowing.

"Rowing remains something that a lot of people haven't seen," O'Gorman said. "It's a situation where no one had access."

O'Gorman said the Calumet-Sag Channel had advantages over both the main branch, which flows through downtown, and the northern branch of the Chicago River.

"The Cal-Sag Channel is perfect," O'Gorman said. "It's wide and straight. It doesn't have a lot of the turns like the northern branch and it's not packed with tourists like the main branch."

O'Gorman said he'd like to see the Chicago Rowing Center get more races going and have more involvement from college teams in the future. He'd also like to see the river used as a training venue.

"When and if the [2016] Olympics come to town, that

will be a plus," O'Gorman said. "[Mayor Daley] talks about the river being an extension of the lakefront, but there isn't much of a presence. People see it more as a sewer, so no one really uses it."

However, that may all change soon. Buchtel said the federation helps communities gain money for the trail mainly from grants. After that, they will push for connections from the trail. Buchtel also noted the Southeast Environmental Task Force as a partner in the fight for environmental importance.

"The SETF are like the environmental gladiators in the area," Buchtel said. "They're in the win."

Another group looking at the importance of the trail is the Chicago chapter of the Sierra Club. Doug Chien, conservation field representative for the nonprofit group, said that he has worked with the Chicagoland Bicycle

Federation before and believes the trail will help change the image some people have of the southern side of Chicago.

"Many people still think of the southern portion as being the armpit of the city," he said, adding that the trail could be a good base for businesses to flourish.

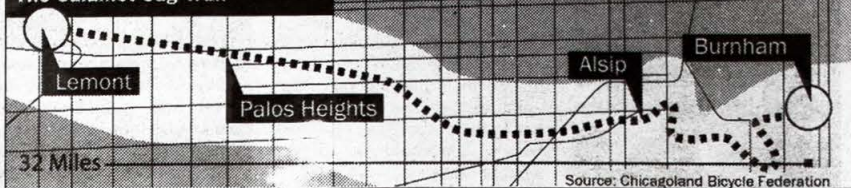
"What's great about the trail is that it can produce a lot of spin-off ideas," Chien said. "For instance, when the trail is completed, you'll probably see a lot of new bike shops and restaurants being set up."

People don't have to worry about the trail being exclusively for bicyclists, either. Buchtel said bicyclists would only be a small fraction of the people using the trail alongside joggers, runners, Rollerbladers and walkers.

"The goal is for people to walk out their front door and be able to enjoy a bike ride, without having [to] attach anything to their cars," Buchtel said.

chronicle@colum.edu

### The Calumet-Sag Trail



Source: Chicagoland Bicycle Federation

Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle

*"Especially along the Calumet, companies only looked at profit. And now since many of them have closed, or are suffering, what they've left behind is a travesty."*

—Steve Buchtel, Chicagoland Bicycle Federation southland coordinator

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# Scoop in the Loop



By Allison Riggio  
Assistant City Beat Editor

Topinka: If it weren't for your agreement about the rate freeze, you might have actually managed to ruin the sanctity of debate for me. Thanks to NBC5.com, I was able to watch the whole thing from the comfort of my electricity-guzzling apartment. Though, I have to say, it was like watching two teenagers go through a bad breakup.

The candidates spent the better portion of an hour finding any possible way to dig up unrelated faults in their opponent's political past. Topinka insisted that Blagojevich's administration has been the most investigated that the state of Illinois has ever had, citing dead-end campaign promises and birthday check scandals. Blagojevich fired back, reminding Topinka that the governor she formerly worked under was, well, sentenced to a few years in jail.

All of this banter, of course, was in no way related to the original questions being asked of the two.

Both candidates, however, actually responded intelligently when asked what should be done about the looming electricity rate increase set for January. Blagojevich responded first, promising that as soon as he acquired enough votes to enact another freeze, he would call a session of the state Congress to get it pushed through.

And at that very moment the planets aligned, universes collided and Topinka agreed with Blagojevich's idea. Well, Topinka thinks a session should be called prior to getting the votes, in hopes that the freeze can be squared away prior to the election. But let's not split hairs; I'll take that as an agreement.

One of the debate's moderators, the Illinois Radio Network's Jim Anderson, joked when both Blagojevich and Topinka suggested nearly the same solution to the rate increase.

"Shockingly, we have an agreement here that you're both in favor of extending the freeze by legislation," Anderson said.

And the teenage bickering ensued just as Topinka interrupted Anderson to try and make another point about why an early



AP

Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich, left, and gubernatorial Republican candidate Judy Barr Topinka, right, answer questions during a debate in Decatur, Ill. on Oct. 2.

session is key. But I must give credit where credit is due: Both Blagojevich and Topinka have suggested an actual solution to an issue that will soon drain my wallet if left unresolved.

If only there were an option on the November ballot titled "Governor for the strict purpose of freezing electricity rates: Rod Blagojevich or Judy Baar Topinka." If that were the case, I would actually feel comfortable making a decision based on my knowledge of each candidate's stance on the matter.

As far as every other issue, these two candidates are too busy dragging skeletons out of the closet to tell the public what they're actually going to do if elected.

A city like Chicago, which makes up a rather large portion of the population of Illinois, has a great deal at stake when it comes to gubernatorial authority. Beyond my electricity bill woes, Chicago faces some serious issues as a major city within Illinois. At \$3 billion, the state has the country's highest fiscal 2005 deficit, according to the Associated Press.

We can't turn on the television without seeing an ad campaign bashing one of these two candidates. We can't put them in a room together to debate the issues because the bashing continues in a less-scripted manner.

How do we find out the real issues? How do we know what they plan to do if elected? I'd rather they just lie to me and make up what they plan to do in office, so long as it sounds like normal political jargon and not mind-numbingly juvenile squabbling.

If Blagojevich and Topinka don't grow up and start telling the public what they really plan to do if elected as governor of Illinois, I just might end up walking in on election day and handing the official a Post-it. It will be scribbled with "I don't care who wins, just please don't make me pay higher bills," because that, quite frankly, is all these candidates can seem to take a clear stance on.

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## In Public

Diggin' for some free Latin music? Then check out La Pena: Juvenato Vallenato with Tierra Colombiana and Estamba, Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 11. For more information, visit [oldtown-school.org](http://oldtown-school.org).

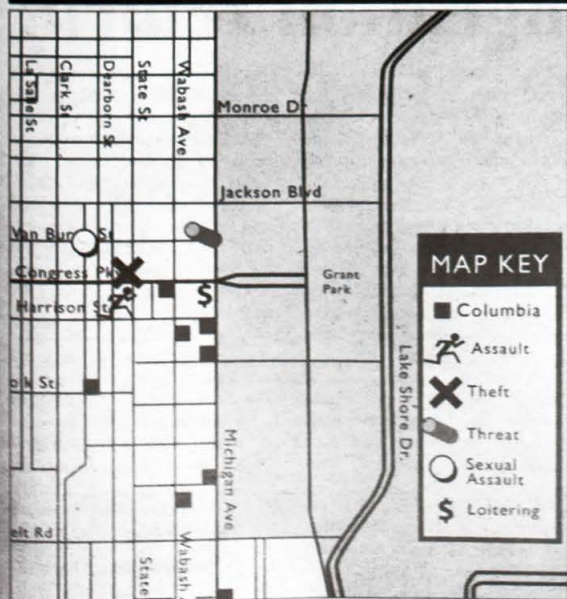
Craving some winter composting? Then stop by the Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave., for a free gardening workshop. The session takes place from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 14. For more information, call the "Rotline" at (773) 265-9587 or visit [garfieldconservatory.org](http://garfieldconservatory.org).

Get some free yoga, pilates and Latin music dance lessons courtesy of Millennium Park's Great Lawn, 201 E. Randolph St., on Oct. 14. Yoga starts at 8 a.m., pilates at 9 a.m. and at 10 a.m. a mix of Latin dance styles like salsa, merengue and cumbia. For more information, visit [millenniumpark.org](http://millenniumpark.org).

Stop and smell the ... chrysanthemums. The Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Drive, will have 95 different kinds of chrysanthemums on display from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 14. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com) or call (312) 742-7736.

Story time. Jay Allison, NPR broadcaster and editor of the book *This I Believe*, will host an evening of readings from the new book at 6 p.m. Oct. 10. The event is free and will be held inside the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium at the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St. For more information, visit [chicagopubliclibrary.org](http://chicagopubliclibrary.org) or call (312) 747-4050.

## Off the Blotter



Jennifer Crider/The Chronicle

### Trouble in paradise?

Police responded to a call Sept. 30 from a 26-year-old student at the University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St. The victim told police he had been pushed into a wall by his roommate's 19-year-old girlfriend after he had a verbal altercation with her. The victim complained of pain in his left arm, and the girl was taken into police custody.

### Maybe he forgot his library card

Security personnel detained a 52-year-old man Sept. 27 who tried to steal two books from Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St. The alarm sounded and police were notified after the man tried to leave without properly checking out *Escape Routes: For People Who Feel Trapped in Life's Hells* and *I Had a Hammer: The Hank Aaron Story*.

### Another unhappy commuter

A 45-year-old man threatened a Chicago Transit Authority bus driver Sept. 28 while boarding a bus at 400 S. Michigan Ave. The victim said the man boarded the bus displaying a closed fist while threatening "I'm gonna bust your face up." The driver pulled over and alerted police officers of the offender. The man admitted to threatening the driver—stating he was angry about the lack of CTA bus stops along Michigan Avenue—and was arrested.

Compiled by Chronicle staff through information provided by the Chicago Police Department.

### Woman allegedly assaulted by acquaintance

A 23-year-old woman was sexually assaulted in a park at 402 S. Federal St. at roughly 10 p.m. Sept. 26. The alleged offender was a 22-year-old male whom the victim said she had known for about a week. The victim told police she and the offender had been on a walk for about an hour when the offender stopped to urinate in the grass. He then asked the victim if she would have sex with him. When she said no, the offender tripped her, pulled her pants and underwear down and forced intercourse. The victim screamed, but was threatened by the man, who shouted "Don't make me kill you; I have a knife." The victim later went to the police station and was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

### A rough week

The Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., had to call for police assistance twice in three days. A 41-year-old man refused to pay for two beers he purchased at the hotel bar on Sept. 30, according to the bartender, who alerted police. On Oct. 2 hotel security had to chase down a man who was loitering in the hotel basement. Security detained the man until police arrived to take him into custody.



## Writer offers view from the ground

Articles question authority and lead to troubles in court

By James H. Ewert Jr.  
City Beat Editor

In April of 2003, a 48-year-old woman living in a former public housing complex on Chicago's South Side approached independent journalist Jamie Kalven, explaining that she had been the victim of police misconduct.

Diane Bond told Kalven that Chicago police officers unlawfully entered her apartment, handcuffed her, beat her and her 19-year-old son, forced her to expose her genitals and threatened to plant drugs on her.

What struck Kalven most while investigating Bond's allegations were not the details themselves, but the fact that the police department denies the event ever took place.

"Assuming for one moment that these allegations are true, how could it be that these guys operated with this degree of impunity?" Kalven said. "The question that really interests me is how do they go about not knowing, how do bureaucracies and governments go about not knowing things that are within their power to know?"

Shortly thereafter, Kalven began writing what was to become a 17-part series of articles he would publish independently on his website [viewfromtheground.com](http://viewfromtheground.com). He called the series "Kicking the Pigeon" and placed Bond's personal account of the story at the center.

Bond later filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the police officers and several high ranking members of the Chicago Police Department. What makes the case unusual, is that Kalven, a journalist, agreed to be a witness for Bond.

Now Kalven is awaiting word from U.S. District Court Judge Joan Lefkowitz on the fate of a pending subpoena issued by the city of Chicago that would require him to relinquish all notes and documents he gathered while writing "Kicking the Pigeon" and any

other stories about public housing and police misconduct.

The city's subpoena comes at a time when journalists face increasing pressure from local and federal governments to divulge confidential sources and information. As more reporters are being thrown in jail for refusing to cooperate, many in the journalism industry are pushing harder for a federal shield law that will protect journalists from being forced to reveal confidential information they gathered while reporting. Kalven's case however, is set apart by his admitted roles as not only an objective journalist, but a human rights activist as well.

### A View From the Ground

According to Kalven, his story began in a place most articles about public housing do not—in public housing. For most stories on the issue Kalven said, are reported on second-hand through court cases, while he uses more personal accounts and a journalistic narrative to convey his points.

In 2001, as the city was preparing to demolish the several buildings that made up Stateway Gardens, many people were abandoning the neighborhood, but Kalven was just moving in.

Located along the Dan Ryan expressway, just across from U.S. Cellular Field, the complex is now completely gone due to the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation, which aims to reinvent the city's entire public housing program.

The few that were staying in the neighborhood notorious for drugs and crime felt just as deserted by the police as the buildings were the city.

"I heard endlessly from residents about often observing instances of what seem to be excessive force or police misconduct," Kalven said. "There is a sense of, 'Who cares about community policing,' in a neighborhood that's only going to be here briefly."

To Kalven however, the community represented much more

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Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Aaron Vandermeer, assistant to composer David Baker, uses several cell phones as instruments for The Chicago Sinfonietta on Oct. 2. The performance integrated audience participation into the concert.

## Cellular symphony

Conductor integrates audience cell phones into orchestra

By Allison Riggio  
Assistant City Beat Editor

Cell phones aren't usually considered symphony-appropriate. But during two recent concerts of the Chicago Sinfonietta, cell phone use was more than just permitted—it was encouraged.

For the finale of a seemingly typical orchestral performance, audience members were encouraged to play ring tones on their cell phones to coincide with various points in the orchestral piece.

Composer David Baker's "Concertino for Cellular Phones and Symphony Orchestra" made its worldwide debut with the Sinfonietta on Oct. 1 at Dominican University, 7900 W. Division St., and Oct. 2 at Symphony Center, 220 S.

Michigan Ave.

"You are going to be featured as soloists with the Chicago Sinfonietta," said conductor Paul Freeman to the audience. "Please turn on your cell phones."

Just before beginning the concertino at Symphony Center, Freeman instructed audience members to locate their cell phone's available ring tones and to play them when cued by spotlights mounted on the stage. When a green light went on, audience members on the main floor of the hall were to play their tones, and when a red light went on, balcony guests were to do so. When the lights went off, audience members were to end their ring tones as quickly as possible.

When cued, the main floor erupted with the sound of jumbled rings and songs to create a loud, booming addition to the instruments in the orchestra. The balcony, which was less populated

than the main seating, was cued in at seemingly less intense points of the concertino. This frenzied result was the intent of the composer, according to Jim Hirsch, the executive director of the Chicago Sinfonietta.

"When you're walking down the street and you pass 15 people and you hear all these little snippets of conversations and all this ambient noise—that's kind of the chaos of everyday life," Hirsch said. "[I think] that's what [Baker] was really trying to recreate a little bit in the concert environment."

Some members of the audience, however, could have done without the addition of cell phones in the piece. Ruby White said that though she enjoyed the concert, she would have preferred to hear a different selection played by the Sinfonietta—without audience involvement.

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## DIY immigration reform

Local governments sidestep Congress to take on immigration

By Eric Kasang  
City Beat Editor

With more reporters present than spectators, the Cook County Law Enforcement and Corrections Committee approved on Oct. 2 a resolution to deem the area a "sanctuary county." The proposal, which prohibits County departments from asking about a person's immigration status or denying county services, still needs to be approved by the full Cook County Board.

Before voting 3-to-2 in favor of it, county commissioners debated the merits of local government involving itself in a federal matter.

Cook County, however, is far from alone in taking on the immigration issue. While Congress has failed to provide any comprehensive immigration reform, communities around the United States, like Hazelton, Pa. and Sandwich, Mass., are enacting laws or sponsoring resolutions to both create tighter enforcement against and provide protection for undocumented workers. And the debate is not disappearing anytime soon.

At the Oct. 2 meeting, Cook County Commissioner Roberto Maldonado, who represents Chicago's North and Northwest Sides, explained the strictly symbolic nature of the resolution.

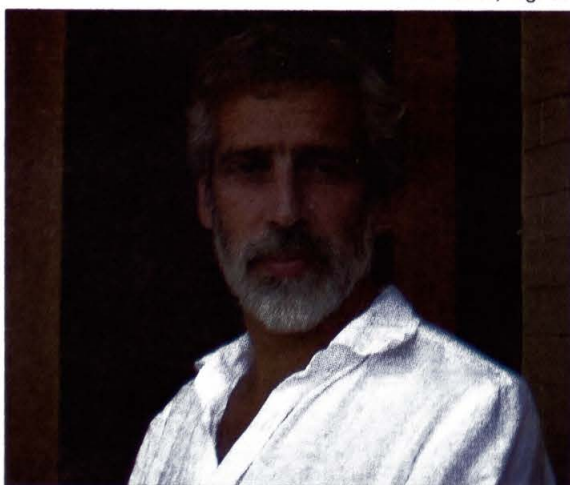
"What we are doing with [the resolution] is telling them that we believe in your struggle," Maldonado said. "And we sup-

port you as we await comprehensive immigration reform in this country."

Maldonado said the part of the resolution that had "teeth" contained a provision that Cook County agencies and employees, like the Sheriff's Department, could not demand to know the immigration status of a person seeking county services. This measure stems from a recent incident at Stroger Hospital where security guards allegedly demanded to know the immigration status of a 77-year-old man and assaulted him while he waited for his wife in a parked car.

Maldonado also mentioned an incident where Cook County Sheriff's officers allegedly asked to see identification from people

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Courtesy Patricia Evans

Author and independent journalist Jamie Kalven is currently awaiting word from Federal Circuit Court Judge Joan Lefkowitz on the fate of a pending subpoena against him. The City of Chicago is seeking all notes and documents Kalven gathered while writing about alleged police misconduct in public housing.